

THE HINDOO PATRIOT

With which is incorporated the Indian Field.

PUBLISHED EVERY MONDAY.

VOLUME XXX.
NUMBER 10.

CALCUTTA:—MONDAY, MARCH 5, 1883.

Per Annum in Advance.
TOWN.....11-8
MOFUSSIL.....13-4

THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 26TH FEBRUARY.

MAHARAJA SIR JOTINDRAMOHUN TAGORE BAHADUR K. C. S. I., gave on Sunday last a Garden Party at his well known Villa, the Emerald Bower, at Sinthi, to which he invited the *élite* of the native community. The state of the weather unfortunately interfered with outdoor amusements and illumination, but the rains did not prevent the gathering, which was very large, and which contained the pick of native society both Hindu and Mahomedan. The Maharaja and his distinguished brother Raja Sourindramohun Tagore Bahadur, Music Doctor, C. I. E., were as usual most courteous and attentive to their guests. The Emerald Bower is most tastefully laid out and embellished, with a picture-gallery second to none in Bengal, and it was a pity that owing to foul weather the guests could not enjoy outdoor amusements. The indoor amusements, however, gave them sufficient compensation. They were regarded with first class music both instrumental and vocal. A Native operatic corps from Bombay contributed to the pleasures of the evening. Their performance was to many a novelty. Refreshments were also provided.

THE first annual meeting of the Bengal Academy of Music founded by the liberality of Raja Sourindramohun Tagore, Mus. Doc. C. I. E., was held this evening, the Hon'ble Dr. Hunter in the chair. The proceedings commenced with the singing of the National Anthem (simultaneously in English and Bengali), set to *Luma-Jhijhit*, by the students of the Bengal Music School. The Chairman then in his usual happy way delivered an interesting and appropriate address. He expressed regret at the departure from this country of Sir Ashley Eden, the first patron of the Academy. He remarked that "by Sir Ashley Eden's retirement last year Bengal lost not only a statesman of a high order but also a true lover of Indian art." He then gave the history of the Academy:

The Bengal Academy of Music took its origin in the Bengal School of Music, which was founded in 1871, that is to say, about 11 years ago. The Raja Sourindramohun Tagore, my friend on my right, after having won many distinctions from foreign universities and conservatoriums in Europe, determined to afford to his fellow-countrymen facilities for attaining a systematic and scientific training in the art of music. To that end he opened a school in Calcutta which he has maintained for many years at his own expense. The opening of this school, however, by a most fortunate coincidence, took place at the same time that a great revival of the national art of Indian music was in progress throughout the whole country. Chiming in with this revival, it has been able to accomplish results which no individual, however zealous, however enthusiastic, however liberal, could have possibly hoped to have accomplished. The Bengal School of Music has now become the mother school of many societies and institutions of similar class; while it has sent forth teachers to various parts of India. The founder and his colleagues were also engaged in publishing works from the classical music of India. Of late years, however, societies of local schools of music for co-operation and direction have come in so numerous that the Bengal School of Music has been unable to supply the demand. It seemed, therefore, well to the Raja and to his colleagues that the Bengal School of Music should give place to a central institution of a more powerful character, and upon a larger scale, which would affiliate the local schools and societies of music throughout Northern India. In 1881, the Bengal School of Music gave place to the Bengal Academy of Music.

DR. HUNTER thus described the constitution and work of the Academy:

The constitution of the academy might be briefly described as follows: it consists of an executive council under the presidency of its founder, Raja Sourindramohun Tagore, of eight-nine members and of two patrons. The object of the academy is, briefly, the revival of the ancient classical music of India. This revival it seeks not to effect but to lead by three distinct departments of work. In the first place it has established many schools of music; in the second place it publishes many works upon the science and art of music, and edits other works which form part of the Sanskrit literature on the subject—in the third place it awards diplomas of honor and money presents to musicians of eminence and authors of musical works, and it confers certificates of merit upon makers of musical instruments on approved principles. Now, gentlemen, the work which the Academy has yet done has been practically the work of one man—the Raja Sourindramohun Tagore, who undertook the guidance of a national movement 11 years ago. His enthusiasm has overcome the difficulties which beset such a movement at its outset, and his liberality has placed this Academy on a firm financial basis.

DR. HUNTER thus compared English and Indian Music:

There are between the Indian and English systems of music certain fundamental differences which the European ear requires a special training to appreciate. In the first place, the Sanskrit system is based on *raghs* and *rāgans* to which the English system is a total stranger. In the second place, the Sanskrit scale is divided into twenty-two sub-tones, while the English scale consists of twelve tones and semi-tones; so that almost every one of the Sanskrit notes seems a false one to the English ear, because we have not been taught to recognise these minor distinctions in tones and semi-tones which Sanskrit music deals in; while the Hindoo ear has been trained to recognise modifications of sound which the European ear refuses to take in; and while the European has been taught to recognize harmonic combinations for each, Sanskrit music substitutes modifications in tones of a totally different character. So there is a vast gulf between the two arts, and I do not think that gulf will ever be bridged. But I beg you to believe that while the Europeans enjoy the tones of each through custom, the Indian ear is quite charmed by sub-tones.

DR. HUNTER then performed the ceremony of bestowing the various diplomas and "insignia." These consisted respectively of pieces of oval silver plate with an inscription. The following is a list of those thus honored:

"Sangita-Nayaka" upon Professor Kshetra Mohan Goswami.
"Sangita-Acharya" upon T. H. Webb, Esq., Diploma-holder of the Royal Conservatorium of Music, Leipzig.
"Sangita-Acharya" upon Herr W. Mack.
"Sangita-Upadhyaya" upon Baboo Gopal Chunder Chatterbutty.
"Sangita-Upadhyaya" upon Baboo Prankishen Mookerjee.
"Sangita-Sisri" upon Pandit Ramprasad Sutaratna.

WE HEARTILY join Dr. Hunter in the expression of his admiration for Raja Sourindramohun Tagore and the great work done by him in reviving the national music. We also endorse the good opinion expressed of the services rendered by Babu Baikanthan th Bosu, one of the staunchest supporters of the Raja.

WE OBSERVE that Mr. Nanabhai Haridas has been again appointed an acting Judge of the Bombay High Court. We have wondered that it has always fallen to his lot to act, but it has been explained to us that since he has been acting no pukka judgeship of the Bombay High Court has fallen vacant.

IT is stated that the Judges of the Bombay High Court have been recently consulted regarding the Criminal Procedure Amendment Bill, and that with the exception of one all the Judges have supported it. "The one dissident," says the *Bombay Gazette*, "has written against the proposed amendment in unmistakably strong terms, expressing an opinion that even the Presidency Magistrates, who are natives, should not have jurisdiction over European British subjects. The Chief Justice disapproves of the tone of the last mentioned minute, and expresses his inability, and that of some of the other Judges, to concur in the views therein set forth." Have the Bengal High Court Judges been consulted?

TUESDAY, 27TH FEBRUARY.

THE FOLLOWING paragraph, quoted from the *Liverpool Mercury*, March 25, 1877, is going the round of the papers, prescribing cure for small-pox:

"The worst case of small-pox can be cured in three days simply by the use of cream of tartar. One ounce dissolved in a pint of warm water, drunk at intervals when cold, is a certain, never-failing remedy. It has cured thousands, never leaves a mark, never causes blindness, and avoids tedious lingering."

THE CALCUTTA JOURNAL OF MEDICINE contains from the pen of its learned editor an interesting article on the statistics of cholera in Calcutta. The editor makes the following remarks on the connection of water with cholera:

If the decline of cholera in Calcutta is to be attributed to the water-supply, how is it that that decline has not been maintained, at least at an uniform rate? How are we to account for the anomalies spoken of above, namely, its steady rise to 1876 after 1871 when it was at its minimum, then a steady decline again to 1880 when it attained a minimum a second time? and how with increased water-supply to account for the second rise since last year, and its unusual severity and prevalence this year, which has rivalled one of the years, a year of minimum fortunately, before 1870? If the cause of cholera had been one, the anomalies in question would have been enough to throw doubt on the beneficial influence of the introduction of pure water in bringing about the remarkable decline of cholera in Calcutta. But the history of cholera shows that its production, prevalence and severity take place under very varying circumstances, and thus bears abundant testimony to the multiple etiology of the disease. The water-supply, evidently, did not as it could not touch all the causes.

But whatever the influence of water upon cholera, the new water-supply has been decidedly a boon to the town.

WE HAVE already announced the establishment of the East Bengal Association in Calcutta. We have received the proceedings of its first two meetings. The new Association has begun well. We hope it will go on and prosper.

IT is stated that a small trade is growing up between Calcutta and London in "tale"—a hundred tons or so of which fragile transparent substance has been shipped from Calcutta to London within the past few months. What becomes of all the tale after its sale in Mincing Lane it is somewhat difficult to ascertain; but it appears that a considerable portion of it finds its way into the hands of compass-card makers, and is made into compass-cards.

THE MADRAS High Court has ruled on a reference from the local Small Cause Court that the practice hitherto pursued by the latter Court is right, viz., that of regarding as exempted from attachment, by clause II, section 226 of the Code of the Civil Procedure, half the pay actually drawn by a judgment-debtor at the time of the attachment of salary, or from time to time. In the case under reference, the defendant was drawing his pay on sick leave, which was half his ordinary pay. Half of the amount so received by him as his salary while on sick leave was exempt from attachment. The other half is attachable.

AMERICA proposes to hold a "World's Fair" in commemoration of the hundredth year of the cotton industry in the United States.

WEDNESDAY, 28TH FEBRUARY.

WE HAVE received the following from a correspondent:

It gives us much pleasure to notice that Mr. J. Ware Edgar C. S. I. officiating Commissioner of the Presidency Division, visited the *Tols* of Bhatpara, one of the great seats of Sanskrit learning in Bengal. He was accompanied by Pandit Hara Prosad Sastri M. A., Vice-Chairman of the local Municipality, and Babu Radhika Prasanna Mukerji, District Engineer. The respectable Pandits of Bhatpara gave him a very warm reception.

With the assistance of Pandit Sastri he examined the students in different subjects, and was, we are told, much pleased with the results of the examination. In addressing the Pandits he very kindly assured them that he would do his best to see the *Tols* system prosper.

To Pandit Jayaram Nayabhusan, the oldest and most learned of the lot, he spoke in a particularly warm manner, assuring him that before his term of life expired he would have the pleasure of seeing the system for which he had worked so hard and the learning to which he had devoted himself, placed upon a more improved footing. Mr. Edgar further said that he had already spoken to His Excellency the Viceroy, His Honor the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal, Maharaja Sir Jotindra Mohun Tagore, K. C. S. I., Pandit Mahesa Chandra Nayaratna, C. I. E., Mr. A. W. Croft Esq., M. A., and Babu Bhudeb Mukerji, C. I. E. on the subject with a view to enlist their sympathies, and had every hope that he would be successful.

A CALCUTTA CORRESPONDENT thus writes to the *Pioneer*:

"Curiosity runs high here over the announcement of a political skit, which is to appear on the boards of one of the local theatres under the title of 'Khaushah Bahadur, C. I. E. or Local Selfish Government.' The piece is to be a musical farce, and the libretto is said to come from the hand of a well-known member of the P. W. O. As a sign of the times, I should add that almost every plate for the first performance which takes place on the 2nd March has already been secured, though some have it that this is merely owing to the object of the performance, which is given in aid of the Bengal Masonic Association."

What next and next?

WE STATED at the time that the late Rai Rajib Lochun, Rai Bahadoor, Dewan to Maharani Surnomoye C. I. of Cossimbazar, had in his last Will left, amongst other charitable bequests, the sum of Rs. 15,000, to be placed at the disposal of the Director of Public Instruction of Bengal, for the purpose of awarding annually a scholarship to a student of the Behampore College, who, after obtaining the B. A. degree in that institution, shall prepare himself for the M. A. examination of the Calcutta University. We are glad to learn that steps are being taken to give effect to this provision of the Will.

THE MADRAS Agricultural Exhibition was opened on the 15th inst. and would appear to be a success. Not the least interesting feature of the Exhibition, the local *Mail* states, was the remarkably fine show of the district collectors and tahsildars.

IT IS SAID that the thirty richest New Yorkers own a joint capital amounting to £120,000,000; Mr. W. H. Vanderbilt standing at the head of the list with a fortune of £25,000,000 and the well-known financier, Jay Gould, coming second with £8,000,000. A lady millionaire, a Californian, is worth £4,500,000.

THE PIONEER has the following on the C. D. Act in India:

"With the publication of the Government Sanitary Report for the year before last, bearing on its title-page the date of last year, and issued from the press in the present year, we have official information of a conclusion which was officially known over three years ago, and which was very generally suspected before that. The framers of the report reluctantly but fully confess the failure of the Lock Hospital system as applied to India. It is an unsavory subject at the best; but its importance demands attention. The system has been worked very generally in the cantonments of all three Presidencies. The admissions have been portentously numerous, and in 1881 the ratio, 260 per mille, was, if we except the figures for 1878, the highest on record. It is also a fact that since the system has been on trial the admissions have steadily risen in number, when quite the reverse was hoped would be the case; and upon this the authorities naturally base the conclusion that the endeavour to protect the soldiery against their own vices has broken down. This is somewhat too broad a conclusion.

Truth will prevail.

ON THE INSTALLATION of the Maharaj Rana of Dholepore Thakur Bechen Sing, the Chief Counsellor, delivered an excellent address, from which we extract the following:

And now, speaking more especially for Her Highness the mother of the Maharaj Rana, and for the people of Dholepore, I wish to express the earnest gratitude which we feel for the manner in which the character of our young Chief has been formed, and his education has been accomplished. For the last three years, His Highness has taken an active part in the administration of the State. He has sat and worked with us in the Council. He has himself daily held open durbars in his palace, and has heard and listened to all petitions brought before him, from the poorest as well as the most influential of his subjects. We have all appreciated the affectionate care bestowed upon our young Prince, and the benefits which he has derived from an English education such as he has had. We see him now strong in his attachment to his religion, and to the traditions of his forefathers, loving above all things justice, honour, and truth; with a sound judgment and a kind heart; and we know that his rule will be a blessing to his State and to his people.

We wish long life and prosperity to the Maharaja.

THURSDAY, 1ST MARCH.

A PANDUA correspondent writes that on the 25th instant a party of brick-makers, while they were at work at Simlagore on the outskirts of the village, were attacked by a wild boar and one of them was gored from the effects of which he died. Thirty villagers made an attempt to kill the beast but they failed—our correspondent asks, what could they do without arms? A commentary on the Arms Act!

A CORRESPONDENT writes:

How is it that those who pay intermediate fares are now and then huddled in 3rd class carriages with third class passengers on the East India line? Third class carriages have bits of paper with the words "intermediate class" marked on them and they are made to pass for intermediate class carriages. Even this could be overlooked if 3rd and intermediate class passengers were not mixed up together. The Company often prosecute passengers who having paid lower class fare travel in higher class carriages. Should not the Company be equally liable for giving lower class accommodation to passengers who have paid higher class fares?

WE HAVE received the prospectus of a Dairy established by Babu K. C. Chatterjee at Barahangore in connection with the N. S. Nursery. The Babu ought to advertise it in the usual way.

A CORRESPONDENT complains that when the District of Tipperah was incorporated with the Chittagong Division the Government never took the trouble of consulting the convenience of the people. This incorporation has been a source of endless trouble and expense to the Tipperah people, who are obliged to visit Chittagong on business at the Commissioner's Office. When the district formed a part of the Dacca Division it took them fourteen hours to go to Dacca and the expense of travelling was not more than Rs. 2-4. Now the time it takes to make a journey to Chittagong is at least four days involving an expenditure of Rs. 10. Tipperah was hitherto a very healthy district, but connection with Chittagong has brought in a great deal of Chittagong fever from the circumstance of suitors returning via Chittagong.

WE HAVE received a copy of the 7th Report of the Moughayr Charitable Institution. Adding to the balance of last year the subscriptions and donations of the year of report it had a fund of Rs. 478-12-3 of which it spent Rs. 284-9-0 in monthly alms to registered paupers, passage money to poor wayfarers and in contingencies. The recipients of the aid consisted of blind persons, lepers, cripples, old and infirm poor and sufferers from other diseases.

A CORRESPONDENT informs us that an Association has been established at Santipore affiliated to the Indian Association.

A CORRESPONDENT brings to our notice the untimely death of Babu Bissambhur Bose, a scion of the family of Dewan Kristoram Bose of Shambazar. The deceased was a promising young man of intelligence and public spirit.

FRIDAY, 2ND MARCH.

WE GIVE a prominent insertion to the following very interesting letter:

SIR,—The presence of Col. Olcott in Calcutta has afforded us a long needed opportunity to test the claims of mesmerism as a curative potency. We have attended at the Baitackhana House of Maharaja Sir Jindro Mohun Tagore Bahadur, K.C.S.I., the past 7 or 8 mornings to see Col. Olcott heal the sick by the imposition of hands. Our experience has been of a very striking nature. We have seen him cure an epileptic boy, whose case had been given up in despair by his family after resorting to every other known mode of treatment. The lad is of respectable parentage—his father being a Deputy Magistrate—and can be seen at Pathooriaghata, No. 80, at the premises of Babu Soorjee Coomar Bysack. A theosophist from Bhagulpur, suffering from atrophy of the disc of the left eye is having his sight restored to him. Other patients have been relieved of different maladies, but a case which occurred this morning is of so remarkable a character as to prompt us to join in this letter for the information of your readers. A young Brahmin aged thirty was brought by the relatives of the epileptic boy, for treatment. He had a facial paralysis which prevented his closing his eyes, projecting his tongue, and swallowing liquids in the usual way. The paralysis of his tongue prevented his speaking without the greatest effort. In our presence and that of other witnesses Col. Olcott laid his hands upon him, pronounced the command *Aram Hao!*, made some passes over the head, eyes, face, and jaws and in less than five minutes the patient was cured! The scene which followed affected the bystanders to tears. For a moment the patient stood cowering and opening his eyes, and thrusting out and withdrawing his tongue; and then when the thought flashed upon him that he was cured he burst into a fit of tears of joy and with exclamations of gratitude that touched our hearts, flung himself at the ground at the Colonel's feet embracing his knees and pouring out expressions of the deepest thankfulness. Surely no one present can ever forget this dramatic incident.

Yours obediently,
Sreenath Tagore.
Shauteory Mookerjee.
Nivaran Chunder Mookerjee.

A MRS. HARRIET MARIA BROWNE, of Madras, has been sentenced to two years' rigorous imprisonment for forging her husband's name on a cheque on the Bank of Madras. The defence set up was that it was a practical joke played off on the prisoner.

MR. JUSTICE NORRIS lately gave a good hint to the senior men of the local bar. His Lordship remarked that in his younger days senior men who had more business on their hands than they could manage were always only too willing to disgorge a portion of it into the hands of juniors, and that there was no reason why this liberal custom should not be adopted at the Bar in Calcutta. We concur.

IT IS STATED that on the 11th ultimo the Maharaja of Durbhangah remitted arrears of rent due from a number of his ryots to the extent of nearly two lakhs of rupees. The next day a thousand of the leading ryots were feasted sumptuously at Rahika in commemoration of the Maharaja's visit. An exemplary landlord.

THE COUNSEL in a case before the North West High Court cited certain judgments of the Bengal High Court as authorities. The following conversation ensued:

The Chief Justice.—I don't accept them as authorities.
Mr. Howard.—I am aware, my Lord, it does not further one's case with your Lordship to cite the decisions of other Courts and that your Lordship does not attach the same importance to the decisions of Division Benches different constituted.
The Chief Justice.—Don't apologise for your authorities. It would almost seem as if you were nervous about them.
How edifying!

MR. SHEPPARD of the Madras bar has been enlisted to officiate for Mr. Justice Wilson. Was no one of the Calcutta bar eligible for the office?

WE HAVE received a communication from a produce dealer which calls for immediate notice of the district authorities of Midnapore and 24-Pargunnahs. Owing to the closure of the Hidgellee Canal for clearance of silt from Geuyakhali to Etamagra and Maisadal since the middle of December last, heavy-laden merchant boats have now to perform their journey to and from Calcutta by doubling the confluence of the Haldree river and the Ganges, but this route is infested by river pirates who it appears rove about in force, for only very lately four or five such laden boats on their way from Calcutta to Hurikhali—a place only six miles from the Maisadal estate—were looted and the crew mercilessly beaten. The occurrence of such dacoities appears strange and rather suspicious, when there is a Police station at Daro. Our correspondent observes that if no effectual steps be taken to check these depredations, traffic will come to a dead-lock. He suggests the temporary appointment of a strong police force on this line.

SATURDAY, 3RD MARCH.

WE HAVE received an interesting account of an interview between H. H. the Gaekwar of Baroda and Babu Protapachandra Roy regarding his translations of the Mahavaratha and the Ramayana. His Highness evinced a lively interest in the undertaking.

THERE WERE 228 deaths in Calcutta during the week ending 24th July, of which 36 were from cholera, 2 from small-pox, 67 from fevers, 22 from bowel-complaints, 4 from accidents and suicide, 12 from asthma and phthisis, 13 from spleen diseases, 12 from tetanus and the rest from other causes. The deaths among non-Asiatic and mixed races were 10. The average of daily mortality was 32.5.

THE BOMBAY CORRESPONDENT of the Pioneer says that in Bombay European opinion is almost unanimous that Mr. Ilbert's Jurisdiction Bill does not involve a question of privilege but that it is a measure of justice. He makes this honest confession:

For my part I am confident that when the Bill has passed, I shall continue to dwell safely; and I shall be surprised if we ever hear that any British-born subject has been a penny the worse for what Mr. Carmichael honestly believes to amount to a repeal of the Great Charter.

All honest and right-minded Englishmen, who have not been carried away by the sentimental cry of race, are we believe of this opinion.

A CORRESPONDENT of the Englishman writes:

In connexion with the late meeting at the Town Hall, I would recommend that an experienced person be sent to England to represent the matter in its proper light, and to cover this expense, I would propose that a subscription list be opened at once.

Take Mr. Branson. He is we believe about to proceed to England.

THE ENGLISHMAN suggests the appointment of a Vigilance Committee in Calcutta in connection with Mr. Ilbert's Bill. Is it intended to bring back the dark days of infamous anti-Canning agitation?

THE SAME PAPER proposes to bring out in pamphlet form the proceedings of the late Town Hall Meeting. We hope Mr. Branson's apology will be included in it. The poison will then carry its own antidote.

THE BOMBAY PAPERS announce the death of Pundit Ghanashyamji Gopinathji, one of the greatest Indian Sanskrit scholars, and a man of profound learning in the Yoga and Vedanta systems of Hindu Philosophy. He was also great in Grammar and Sanskrit Philology. He has left a son, Pundit Gattoolalji, who is not only a well-known Sanskrit scholar, but also a Sanskrit poet.

THE PIONEER has now the candour to admit that the Kashmir officials are not to blame in the matter of Mr. Johnson's death.

DR. HIGGINS, Astronomer, Ottawa, writes to His Excellency the Viceroy prophesying that a great storm will occur in March next, that it will originate in the Northern Pacific on the 9th, will pass westward over India to the Atlantic, and being deflected by the Rocky Mountain Range, will cross this meridian from the west at noon of Sunday, 11th March, 1883.

WE TAKE from the morning papers the following telegrams of the week:

London, February 26.—A letter, containing explosive matter, addressed to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, has been detected at the Post Office at Ballydeob.

27.—The British Government has demanded of the United States Government the extradition of Sheridan, who is implicated in the Dublin murders. The United States Government has consequently ordered his arrest. In the House of Commons last night, Lord Hartington refused to arrange a date for the discussion of Sir S. Northcote's motion for a select committee to enquire into the negotiations between the Government and the suspects at Kilmainham. Mr. Cross, replying to a question, said that since the transfer of Mysore, no official has been pressed upon the Maharaja, who himself insisted upon the appointment of the present Dewan. The House of Commons last night resumed the debate on the address. An amendment brought forward by Mr. Parnell denouncing the tyrannical exercise of the Crimes Act in Ireland, was negatived by 133 against 15. The debate was adjourned.

27.—Princess Leopold has given birth to a daughter. In the House of Commons last night, Mr. Cross, replying to a question, said that the eminent authorities unconnected with the present Government of India who recognised the necessity of Mr. Ilbert's Bill, included the names of Lord Napier of Murchistoun (Query of Ettrick), Lord Napier of Magdala, Sir Richard Temple, Sir George Campbell, and Sir Barrow Ellis.

28.—Byrne, the Secretary of the English Labour League, has been arrested in Paris in compliance with demands made by the British Government. Byrne's arrest has been made in connexion with the Irish conspiracy. The Honorable W. Carrington has resigned his seat for Wycombe. The Secretary of State for India, in reply to a question in the House of Lords, said, that, before the Government changed the law relating to the trial of Europeans in India, every Local Government would be consulted. There was no intention to pass the measure through its final stage until November.

London, March 1.—Colonel King Harman, Conservative candidate, has been elected by a large majority member for Dublin County, defeating the nationalist candidate. Mr. Brewster, the conservative candidate, has been elected, by a narrow majority, member for Portlannington. An official minute estimates the charge on the Imperial Exchequer on account of the Egyptian expedition to be £3,410,000, and the charge on India £1,140,000. Government will ask Parliament to contri-

bute £500,000 towards the latter. Mr. Gladstone has remained in three days in Paris on his way to London. It is reported that he is negotiating with the French Government to put an end to the tension which exists respecting the Egyptian question.

2.—The Chancellor of the Exchequer announced in the House of Commons last night, that the budget would be submitted after Easter. Dr. Playfair, the chairman of Committee in the House of Commons, has resigned. Lord Hartington proposed that Sir Arthur J. Otway, Member for Rochester should succeed him. The Commons have negatived, by 183 against 82, an amendment to the address brought forward by Mr. O'Connor relative to distress in Ireland. After a long debate the House voted the address.

WE HAVE to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the under-mentioned publications and periodicals:—1. An Analytical History of Greece and Rome with a chronology of remarkable events &c., for the use of F. A. candidates. Canning Library, Calcutta. 2. Proceedings of the East Bengal Association. 3. Journal of the East Indian Association, October 1882, No. 4 Vol. XIV. 4. Prospectus of the Burdwan and Cutwa Bengal Provincial Railway Co. 5. Reply to Extra Supplement to the "Theosophist" for July 1882. By Pandit Umrao Sing. 6. Card-Almanack of the Queen Insurance Company for 1883. 7. Do. of the Universal Life Assurance Society for 1883. 8. Report of do. for 1882. 9. Banga Dursun, Bengali monthly, for Pous, 1289 Bengali year, No. 99. 10. Bharuti do. for Falgun 1289 No. 11, Vol. VI. 11. Oriental Miscellany for March 1883. 12. Proceedings at the Inaugural Meeting of Gowhati Hitoishini Sava.

THE REV. MR. FINTER is reported to have said at the Town Hall Meeting—"Evil be to him that stirreth up strife!" Is this a curse?—and is cursing an appropriate avocation for a minister who preaches the religion of Jesus Christ?

The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, MARCH 5, 1883.

THE NEW RENT BILL.

MR. ILBERT introduced the new Bengal Rent Bill into the Vice-Regal Council on Friday last. He made an able, elaborate, lucid and exhaustive preliminary statement. He approached the subject in a calm and dispassionate spirit. We have barely time to give a brief summary of the leading provisions of the Bill:

I. The Bill makes a distinction between khamar or private land of the zemindar and rayati land or land destined for occupation by ryots. It provides that the existing stock of khamar land cannot hereafter be increased, and that all land which is not khamar land shall be deemed to be rayati land, and that all land shall be presumed to be rayati land until the contrary is proved. Ryots occupying ryoti land will enjoy much larger protection than ryots occupying khamar land.

II. A permanent tenure shall be heritable, devisable, and transferable, and the holder of such a tenure shall not be liable to be ejected except under a decree of court.

III. Ryots holding at fixed and unalterable rates are included in the definition of tenure-holders.

IV. A settled ryot means a ryot holding any ryoti land (whether the same or not it does not matter) in the same village or estate for a period of twelve years whether before or after the passing of the Act.

V. Contract between landlord and tenant overriding the incidents attaching to the right of occupancy to be void. These incidents are thus enumerated: (1) The rayat may use the land in any manner which does not render it unfit for the purposes of the tenancy;

(2) he may make improvements on it as provided by the Bill;

(3) he must pay rent at fair and equitable rates as determined by the Bill;

(4) he cannot be ejected except under a decree passed for breach of certain conditions, or for using the land in such a way as to render it unfit for the purpose of tenancy;

(5) he may sublet the land;

(6) his interest is to be transferable, subject to certain rights reserved to the landlord; and

(7) his interest is to descend as if it were land.

VI. The occupancy tenure to be transferable, but the landlord shall have the right of pre-emption.

VII. The landlord so acquiring occupancy land may keep it for *nij* cultivation, but if he lets it, the tenant shall have occupancy right.

VIII. Enhancement of rent shall not be made except by a decree of a Civil Court, or by an approved and registered contract. In case of contract, it shall be approved and registered by a special revenue officer. The landlord is not to be allowed to register a con-

tract for enhancement of rent, by which a rayat engages to pay a rent more than six annas in the rupee higher than the existing rent, or more than one-fifth of the estimated annual value of the gross produce of the land.

Enhancement of rent by decree of court shall be regulated by tables of rates to be prepared by revenue officers; where the increase of rent is sought on the ground of increase in the productive power of the soil, or in the value of produce the landlord shall obtain the whole benefit, where the improvement is due to him; where it is due to the combined efforts of both landlord and tenant the Court shall fix the share of each on an equitable basis, and where it is due to neither the landlord nor the landlord and tenant the tenant shall share half and half. And lastly rent shall not be raised in any case beyond one-fifth or 20 per cent. of the value of the gross produce. Existing rents shall not in any case be more than doubled, and in all cases the enhancement shall have a currency for ten years.

Reduction of rent is allowed under particular circumstances.

IX. Sub-letting by occupancy ryots is allowed.

X. An ordinary ryoti or tenant-at-will shall be subject to rents agreed to between himself and his landlord, but if he does not pay the rent demanded he shall not be liable to be ejected unless the landlord makes good the value of improvements made by him and gives compensation at ten times the annual rent for disturbance.

In addition to this a landlord shall not eject an ordinary rayat except

(a) for arrears of rent;

(b) on the ground that the rayat has used the land in a manner which renders it unfit for the purposes of the tenancy, or that he has broken some condition on breach of which he is, under the terms of a written contract, liable to be ejected; or

(c) that he has refused to agree to an enhancement of rent on which the landlord insists.

XI. The rayat shall have a preferential right to make improvements, and to receive value of improvements when ejected.

XII. The Board of Revenue should fix the instalments of rent payable by the rayat.

XIII. The rent-receiver should give the rayat cheque receipts with full particulars, and also detailed annual account at the end of each year.

XIV. The rayat shall have the option of depositing rent in court whenever he may have reason to hold that the landlord will not receive it. The rayat may also deposit rent

(1) when it is payable to co-sharers jointly, and he is unable to obtain their joint receipt, and no person has been empowered to receive the rent on their behalf; and

(2) when the tenant entertains a *bona fide* doubt as to who is entitled to receive the rent.

XV. Settlement of rent and ascertainment of rent may be effected by Revenue officers under special provisions of the law and under orders of Government. The provision of the chapter may be made applicable—

(a) When a large proportion of the tenants or if the landlord desire that it should be applied and

(b) When a resort to it is likely to settle or avert a serious dispute existing or likely to arise between landlords and tenants generally. Objections to such settlement of rent may be heard by superior revenue authorities.

XVI. There is to be no summary procedure for the recovery of rent.

XVII. The power of distraint is retained in a modified form, but it must be made entirely a process of court.

XVIII. The procedure for the trial of rent-suits will be modified to this extent. That the service of summons shall be effected by registered letters, that the summons shall, as a rule, be issued for the final disposal of the case, that no written statement shall be filed without the leave of the Court, that the provisions of the Code of Civil Procedure relating to interrogatories, discovery and affidavits shall not apply, that whether an appeal lies or not a single memorandum of the substance of the evidence, such as is prescribed by the Code for unappealable cases, shall suffice that as a rule execution may issue on the oral application of the decree-holder at the time the decree is passed, and that the sections of the Code, which enable a judgment-debtor to obtain a suspension of an order made for the sale of his immovable property, and certain sections which provide for the transfer of decrees to the Collector for execution, shall not apply. That there shall be no right of appeal in petty cases involving no question of title or of a right to enhance or vary rent. When the defendant shall admit rent, but deny ownership of plaintiff, he shall deposit rent in Court before going into objections.

XIX. As suit for relief by forfeiture shall not lie unless the landlord has allowed the tenant opportunity to pay compensation for breach of conditions.

XX. In cases of large occupancy holdings, they may be first put up for sale in execution with encumbrances, but if the sale proceeds do not cover the amount decreed, then without encumbrances.

The above is a hurried and brief summary. We reserve comments till a future issue. In the meantime we would invite all parties interested to read the Bill carefully, and to take necessary steps for a full expression of their views and opinions on the subject.

A TEMPEST IN A TEA-POT.

THIS popular saying aptly describes the character of the great Indignation Meeting, which was held by Independent Britons at the Town Hall on Wednesday last, for the purpose of opposing Mr. Ilbert's Bill for the extension of the jurisdiction of the Indian Criminal Courts over European British subjects. The hurricane of indignation raged so violently that the voice of reason was for the time entirely lost—the appeals of truth and justice were trampled under foot. We cannot sufficiently emphasise our regret at the outburst of this storm. After the sad events of the Sepoy Mutiny which had torn feeling on both sides, cooler judgment had returned, and the leaders of the two sections of the community had been doing their best to throw oil over troubled waters, and working hand in hand for the common weal. A few agitators, who had not evidently forgotten the old race feelings, have, however, succeeded in rousing again the old passions, the revival of which we consider is a calamity for the country. We only wonder how sensible people can be carried away by a mere cry, by a mere panic, and deluded to leave their reason, judgment, and manhood behind. The Bill, as we have repeatedly shewn in these columns, will not give jurisdiction to more than half-a-dozen native Civilians, and that in the distant future, and will not take away an iota of the existing safeguards for the protection of the liberty of the British-born subject, and yet it was argued at the Town Hall meeting that the Britishers were about to lose their Magna Charta rights, that the liberties and lives of themselves, their wives, daughters and sisters were in danger, that either they should leave the country or fight for their rights—one speaker, himself a country-born, even threatened the terrors of a civil commotion! We have personally high respect for those who addressed the meeting; ordinarily we would gladly go to them for advice on public matters, and act under their guidance and leadership; but how grieved are we to find them bid adieu to reason and justice in obedience to a malevolent race-cry! Take the speakers one by one. Mr. Keswick, who moved the first Resolution, a thorough gentleman; as he himself said he counts many friends among native gentlemen; he is reasonable and just, and willing to co-operate with the native community in the advancement of public interests. And yet he forgot his generous instincts, and gave utterance to sentiments and expressions, which we are sure he would not have uttered in sober and cooler moments. He actually said that English education and residence in England do not qualify a native of India to deal with an Englishman rightly and justly. He remarked—"can the Ethiopian change his skin or the Leopard his spots?" Is this the honest belief of Mr. Keswick? We for one cannot believe it. He charged the Government with pampering the native and degrading the European, and yet in the same breath he admitted that the jurisdiction would rest in six native Civilians only, and that "the Government have lately been shewing a desire to attract British capital to this country." So that the Government cannot be fairly accused of antipathy against the European, and yet the Indignation Meeting was based on the cry that the Government was opposed to the Independent Briton. Mr. Keswick taunted the Bengalis by saying that this Bill will not confer upon them political equality with Englishmen. He asked—"Do they think that once this privilege is gained, a change in the political relations between the two races will follow, and that they will occupy all the high offices of State, be Commissioners of Divisions, Members of the Board of Revenue, and Chief Commissioners of Provinces, and that they will see filled from their ranks the

posts of Lieutenant-Governors, Governors of Presidencies, Ministers of Finance, Commander-in-Chief, (cheers) and that of the Viceroy himself? This taunt might well have been spared. Mr. Keswick plausibly suggested that what the natives wanted was the driving out of Englishmen from India bag and baggage, but where is the proof of such a slanderous assertion? Are the Indians so ungrateful as to harbour such a wish? To suggest it is simply to calumniate them. Mr. Branson followed Mr. Keswick, and though not a *pukka* Britisher himself—was he not threatened to be blackballed at the Bengal Club some sixteen years ago on the ground that he was not an Englishman, because he had spoken out honestly against certain weaknesses of the Anglo-Indian character in one of his first decisions as a Judge of the Calcutta Small Cause Court?—and yet he inveighed more violently and bitterly than any thorough-going British-born against the Bill, the Government, and the natives. None knows better the people of this country than Mr. Branson; he owes his birth to this land and *ipso facto* is one of the children of the soil; he makes a magnificent income by pleading their causes; he is daily associated with native gentlemen, and from what we know of him he likes them, and he is liked by them. And yet he poured forth the most venomous abuse upon them. We have not space, otherwise we would have culled elegant extracts from his speech for the adornment of a literary *bouquet* as a farewell gift to him on the eve of his departure from this country, which we hear is at hand. We cannot, however, resist the temptation of reproducing a few choice bits of his rhetoric. He asked—"can any one be so blind as to say that his reputation is as dear to a native as it is to an Englishman?" So the native gentleman does not care for his reputation. This is Mr. Branson's experience of the native character after associating with native gentlemen for nearly two decades. He then went on: "You cannot suddenly educate the slave into a full appreciation of freedom; you cannot, I say, teach him to value that freedom as the man values it, whose heritage it has been, whose father's it was, and who can look back into the far past, and say—what we can say—Britons and were free?" Is this the language of a true-born Briton? Interrogate the greatest statesmen and the noblest philosophers and teachers of England, and, we feel sure, they will give you a different answer. Again: "Now, if the Hindoo has in him (and in using the word 'Hindoo,' I use perhaps wrongly, but in an address like this, I cannot go into details; I use it to cover all except the Mahomedan race),—if the Hindoo has in him any patriotism, any love of country, any love of freedom, any one attribute common to human nature, the Hindoo must hate us. If he does not hate us, he has not got a quality which we can understand. (Cheers.)" Is this after all the invaluable lesson, which is treasured up in Mr. Branson's breast after associating with the natives of the country for nearly twenty years, and is this the way to allay race strife in the land? We are, however, inclined to think that, notwithstanding this rancorous outburst, Mr. Branson will continue to act on a different principle, will associate with these hating and hated natives, and also pocket fees from them. He went on: "Under these circumstances, is it wonderful that we should protest, that we should say these men are not fit to rule over us; these men cannot judge us, and we will not be judged by them." But surely if six selected native Civilian be vested with very limited jurisdiction, it cannot be said that the natives as a nation will rule over the English, or sit in judgment over them. In the name of Allah—Figs! As he went on Mr. Branson became furious against poor Bengali Babus or to use his choice phrase—"blantaut Bengali Babus"—a fine alliteration worthy of Dave Carson. "The Jackass kicketh at the lion!" Mr. Branson was also sarcastic. He quoted Mr. Ilbert who had said that the trial of European British subjects required the "judicial qualities of tact, judgment, patience and impartiality," and, said this *substantia* lawyer, "if you are searching for them in the wide world, where will you find them so well displayed as in

Babu Behary Lal Gupta." Again: "If you want exceptional tact, patience, and impartiality, you must pass them over and go to the Bengali Baboo." Not content with these sarcasms, Mr. Branson indulged in the following tirade:

"Now, this is notoriously a country, in which the utmost ingenuity is ever trying to concoct and bring false charges. (Cheers.) What the stilleto is to the Italian, the false charge is to the Bengali. He loves it, it is his weapon which he ever carries about with him, and is facile to urge when he can state anything, whether true or otherwise, which enables him to use this weapon with the most fatal effect; and we are called cowards forsooth, because we have asked that we shall not be tied hand and foot, and left it in the hands of these men with their stilleto of false charges; and not we alone, but English ladies, in the remote districts of Cachar, may be brought up before a native Commissioner when their husbands are away, and there has been some quarrel with the coolies of some neighbouring garden."

We wish Mr. Branson had left the ladies alone. He paid them a questionable compliment by dragging them down. The fact, however, remains, and it has not been gainsaid that during the last few years many European British subjects have of their own accord waived their birth-right and elected to be tried by Native Magistrates in whom Mr. Branson and his conferees have no confidence. At every turn Mr. Branson abused the natives roundly and heartily. He quoted some words of Mr. Justice Norman, and took this occasion to thus ticket the natives—Mr. Justice Norman "met with his death in this Town Hall at the hands of a native of this country, that race which it is proposed to put over us." Mr. Branson had forgotten that the murderer of Mr. Justice Norman was not a "Bengali Babu." But supposing he were, would that disqualify his race? Would the English nation be ostracised from judicial work, because some maniacs among them three times attempted the life of our gracious Sovereign and a Briton in Australia wounded the Duke of Edinburgh? He thus insulted zenana ladies—"there exists at the present moment this anomaly, that our own fair ladies are to be brought into open court, to be gazed upon by the foul multitude; but their own ladies, who are used to that multitude, are entitled by law to screen themselves behind the zenana, and there give their evidence." The italics are ours. If native writers or speakers were to imitate Mr. Branson's language, they could not be rightly blamed, but would any honest Englishman with a particle of self-respect put up with such language about their ladies from the mouth of an Indian? We leave it to the good sense of Englishmen themselves to characterize such language. Mr. Branson thus maligned the honorable native gentlemen, who act as interpreters between the rulers and the ruled: "Do not forget that you have enemies, do not forget that there are wily natives, snakelike, who creep in where you cannot walk, because you cannot walk unless you walk upright; that they can poison the ears of your Rulers against you, otherwise how can we account for this extraordinary Resolution to pass this measure." Our answer is—this insinuation is beneath contempt. And lastly Mr. Branson actually preached what nearly verged on sedition. He said:

"It has been well said that there is a point at which allegiance itself may stop. Now, I do not say, I do not suggest that you have come to this point yet, but what I tremble for and what I am coward enough to fear is, that this Bill will provoke reprisals, and reprisals will provoke fresh legislation, and fresh legislation will forfeit allegiance, and the country be hurled into the horrors of civil war (loud cheers). We know that you have strong determined men to deal with, they will have their way. We who have read history know what happened when the negroes of the Southern States got privileges from their white brethren. We know what followed, and how these negroes went trembling on their knees to beg that these privileges might be taken away. Now the question is, are you going to surrender your rights (cries of no, no). Swear by all that is most sacred to you that you will not (loud cries of no, no)."

We make this extract from the report of the *Indian Daily News*. We will make no comment upon it. Let us see what the verdict of English opinion will be upon this inflam-

matory language used by one, whose profession it is to enunciate and advocate law and loyalty to law. Mr. Kennedy moved the second resolution. He is a man of moderation and judgment, and his words ought to carry weight. His joining the meeting lent it considerable strength, and we must candidly confess that we agree with much that fell from his lips. We agree that as India is now governed the wires are pulled from the Westminster Hotel, that the assent of the Secretary of State being taken to all bills before introduction, the Legislative Council is reduced to a mere machine for the registration of the decrees of that personage, that the provisions of the *Habeas Corpus* Act ought to be extended to the natives, that no distinction should be made between the Europeans and the Natives in the dispensation of patronage. But all these arguments applied to general reform and not to Mr. Ilbert's Bill. Mr. Kennedy gave some instances of Magisterial freaks, but he ought to have remembered that the Magistrates shown up by him were his own countrymen and not natives. We are no less concerned than surprised to see that a man of Mr. Kennedy's judgment, moderation, and breadth of mind should for a moment think that the vesting a few experienced Native Magistrates with criminal jurisdiction over European British subjects, would really endanger the liberty of the latter. If any thing, the Native Magistrates are likely to be more careful in trying British-born offenders than their own countrymen.

The other speeches are not worth notice; so we pass them over. Although we do not sympathize with the object of this meeting we are glad to observe that the Bar took its proper place in this demonstration. But what will the outside public think of a movement for the vindication of the rights of British-born subjects, when of the three representatives of the bar two were non-Britishers, one an Indianised Englishman and the other an Armenian, and they were supplemented by a German, and when of the twelve gentlemen appointed to constitute a Committee to carry out the resolutions of the meeting there are two Jews, one Armenian, and two Eurasians, who are already amenable to trial by local Courts, and are not in the least affected by the proposed Bill. We have not space for a full report of the meeting, but its sense is conveyed in the first Resolution, which we give below:

"That in the opinion of this meeting the Bill for the amendment of the Criminal Procedure Code is unnecessary in the interests of justice; uncalled for by any administrative difficulty; based on no sound principle; founded on no experience; whilst forfeiting a much valued and prized and time-honoured privilege of European British subjects, it confers no benefit upon natives; whilst imperilling the liberties of European British subjects, it in no way affords any additional protection to natives; it will deter the investment of British capital in the country by giving rise to a feeling of insecurity as to the liberties and safety of the European British subjects employed in the Mofussil and also of their wives and daughters; and it has already stirred up on both sides a feeling of race antagonism and jealousy, such as has never been aroused since the Mutiny of 1857."

Can a Bill "forfeit" a valued privilege of a particular class of men? But let that pass. We need hardly say that the independent European community were perfectly right in holding this Meeting for the assertion of what they believe, rightly or wrongly, their own rights and privileges, but we wish that it had been conducted with temper, good feeling and good taste. What we deprecate is the intense race-feeling exhibited—particularly in Mr. Branson's speech. If we differ, why should we not differ as gentlemen and friends.

Since the above was in type we have seen Mr. Branson's apology, which we notice elsewhere.

THE PUNJAB IN 1881-82.

THE Provincial Administration Reports are one by one making their appearance. In a recent issue we reviewed the Bengal Administration Report for 1881-82, and we now proceed to notice the Punjab Report for the same year. It is a review of the last year of Sir Robert Egerton's rule prepared under the auspices of his successor. All the three Lieutenant-Governorships in the Bengal Presidency changed

hands in April last, and the change occurred in the Punjab in the very beginning of the current official year. In the Punjab Report for 1880-81, which was the last prepared under Sir Robert Egerton's rule, a general review of the administration of that Province during the term of office of the late Lieutenant-Governor was given, and the measures initiated in the various department during 1881-82 up to January 1882 were also noticed by anticipation. The present Report is, therefore, a very tame affair, and does not require a long review.

In noticing the annual Punjab administration Reports, the state of the North-West Frontier first demands the reviewer's attention. No event of importance occurred in connection with the Punjab border in 1881-82. The frontier of Huzam was more than usually tranquil. The tribes on the Dera Gazi Khan Frontier maintained a friendly attitude. The arrangements made for securing the tranquillity of the Khyber worked satisfactorily and caravans passed freely to and fro without impediment or apprehension. The Afridi Maliks, we are told, now freely communicate with the Political officer stationed at Jamsed, and there is a marked contrast in their bearing to the independent, and some times haughty, attitude formerly assumed by them in dealing with the officers of the British Government. The Khyber Pass, as far as Landikhana, it is hoped, may in a few years be safe for traffic. But the same cannot be said of the Upper Khyber, lying within Shinwari and Mohmand territory. The relations of the Khan of Lalpura with the Shinwaris and of both with the Amir of Kabul are still unsettled, and though serious complications have as yet been avoided, there is no knowing how long the affairs of the upper Khyber will be directed from Lalpura. The tribes on the Kohatbunder, on the whole, behaved well during the year under report; but the Kabul-Khel Waziris committed several pillaging raids into the Khattack country. No event of any importance occurred in the Kurram Valley, which is now administered by the Turis. The two delegates visited the Deputy Commissioner of Kohat in December 1881, and represented to him the difficulties experienced in the administration of Kurram owing to the internecine feuds of the Turis. They were informed that the British Government would not interfere in the internal management of the Valley, but would be pleased to hear of their union and prosperity. Since their departure constant fighting has been going on between the two factions of the Turis. The Muris and Buglis are now under the political jurisdiction of the Beluchistan Agency. They were, however, quiet during the year, and did not disturb the border. The Peshwar or Kohat Border Police succeeded in several cases in preventing and arresting raids from the hills. Out of four attempts to lift cattle on the Peshwar border, three were successfully repulsed by bodies of the Militia or of the Border Police. The Report before us says:—"Self-reliance has also sprung up among the inhabitants of the Frontier villages, and along the Yusufzai frontier, it has been found possible to dispense with the system of Border Police, which only so far back as 1878 was considered indispensable by the committee appointed to consider the question. The inhabitants of British villages on the Frontier lack none of the spirit of their trans-border neighbours, and there is no reason why they should not defend themselves and ultimately enjoy the same immunity from the attacks of their turbulent neighbours as the latter, from no preventive measures of their own, enjoy from all attacks on the British side." The successful management of the affairs of the North-West Frontier was, indeed, the only redeeming feature in Sir Robert Egerton's five years' administration of the land of the five waters. There is nothing important to record in the history of the feudatory states in the Punjab during the year under review.

The year was, on the whole, a prosperous one for the agricultural community; but one district did not share in this general prosperity. The state of that district—Gurgaon—is causing considerable anxiety to the Punjab Government, and

it is admitted that relief on an extensive scale will be required. A special enquiry should, to our thinking, be made into the causes which have reduced Gurgaon to its present deplorable condition. Such an enquiry cannot fail to yield valuable results, and we commend our suggestion to Sir Charles Aitchison's favourable consideration. As the year was a prosperous one, the revenue was realized without difficulty. The collections amounted to no less than 99 per cent. of the total Government demand. The number of estates held under direct management in 1881-82 was 27, of which 23 were situated in one district—Dera Ismail Khan. 31 estates were under the management of the Court of Wards, and eight wards were being educated during the year at the wards' school at Hurbulla. We notice that proposals for reconstituting this institution, and placing it on a more satisfactory basis than the present one, are now under the consideration of the Punjab Government. The amount granted for agricultural advances during the year was only Rs. 89,498—a sum which, the writer of the Report admits, "is an exceedingly small one if the circumstances of the Provinces be considered." Coming to the relations between landlord and tenant, we observe that the number of suits for enhancement of the rent of occupancy tenants filed during 1881-82, was 1022, which shows a considerable increase from the returns of the previous year. More than half the number of enhancement cases were instituted in the Hoshiarpur District and arose in connection with the settlement operations. The Settlement Officer has suggested that he should be empowered to fix rents summarily for the period of the new settlement and the Lieutenant-Governor supports the proposal. It will be taken up in connection with the question of the revision of the Punjab Tenancy Act in certain respects. The jail population, as might be expected, decreased in the year under report. The question of reorganising the judicial agency of the Province is now under the consideration of the Government and we trust the judicial and executive branches will now be entirely separated in the Punjab as in Bengal and the North-Western Provinces. The external trade of the Province showed great steadiness during the period under review; but there was a falling-off in the import of shawls and raw silk from Kashmir. There was a large increase in the export of wheat, which now amounts to 7½ million maunds, and shows an increase on the figures of two previous years of about 40 per cent. Well does the writer of the Report remark that there is a future for Punjab wheat in the annals of trade. The year under report was not, however, a very healthy one. The death-rate was higher than in 1880, the increase of mortality being due chiefly to malarious fever. The total number of scholars attending educational institutions of every description in the Punjab was 110,427 in 1881-82 as compared with 104,923 in the previous year. The writer of the Report says:—"So much interest has been awakened in the subject [of education] by the appointment of the Education Commission, and by the prominence thus given to the whole history of education in India, that it may be confidently anticipated that defects in the existing system will be removed, and improved methods introduced in the Punjab as well as in other provinces, as a result of the labours of the Commission. The growth of the education of a people cannot be measured from year to year, though it can be gained from time to time by indications other than the number of primary schools or of passed candidates for academical honors; and the eagerness manifested by a large portion of the educated community for the passing of the University Act, and perhaps not less the opposition encountered by its promoters, afford indication of a growing interest in intellectual progress among the Native gentry and the educated classes in this Province." Under Sir Charles Aitchison's enlightened administration the Punjab University Bill was shorn of its objectionable features, and we earnestly hope it will accelerate educational progress in the Province.

THE PUBNA CASE.

THE Lieutenant-Governor has passed orders on the now notorious Pubna case. His Honor justly

refrains from entering into any discussion of the judicial decisions in the case. Still His Honor remarks that "the Appellate Court has found that an offence of rioting with deadly weapons, which is punishable with imprisonment extending to three years, was committed, and that Azeem Chowdhury, though technically not liable to punishment for the rioting itself, was responsible for that offence." With due deference we submit that the last conclusion of the Lieutenant-Governor is not sufficiently borne out by the judgment of Mr. Browne, the Sessions Judge. The latter says:

"The Court is decidedly of opinion that the above charges as they stand have not been established. The prosecutions had to show that the prisoner was guilty of abetment under section 109 and of connivance under section 150. They certainly have not sufficiently proved any act of connivance under section 150 and all that they have satisfactorily shown in the way of abetment under section 109 is that the prisoner did not give any information to the Police.

Looking to the undoubted fact that Police were notoriously possessed of full information as to the probability of an illegal assembly taking place, it seems clear that the prisoner cannot be said to have been guilty of abetment simply because he did not tell the police what they already knew.

What the Court holds is this—"there is in the opinion of this Court sufficiently good testimony to show that the prisoner was the owner of the land respecting which the riot took place, that the riot took place for his benefit and that he did not use all the lawful means in his power to prevent such illegal assembly and riot from taking place." Assuming this to be the right conclusion upon the facts adduced, surely it does not support the broad statement of the Lieutenant-Governor that Azim Chowdhry was only "technically not liable to punishment for the rioting itself." But let that pass. As the Lieutenant-Governor does not wish to comment upon judicial decisions, we are quite willing to follow his example. Nor do we wish to discuss the domestic affairs of Azim Chowdhry. We have no sympathy with him in his foolish attempt to resist the execution of the decree against him. If he had not done so he could have saved his fortune, position and character. But he was it would seem carried away by a fatuity in this matter. And he has paid dearly for his frolic.

What we have to consider is the part played by the Police and the Magistrate. Upon this point the Lieutenant-Governor remarks:

The Lieutenant-Governor's immediate concern is with the conduct of the police in respect to the firing on the rioters and on that point, after the most careful and anxious consideration of the circumstances of the case, he feels bound to record his opinion that the police cannot be censured, and that the responsibility for the death of the unfortunate man who was shot rests entirely with those who, after a protracted defiance of the law through a long series of years, eventually organized armed resistance to the execution of the Civil Court's orders.... It is easy enough to criticise the conduct of the police at a distance, and to contend, as the Lieutenant-Governor has seen it contended, that the resistance offered was no sufficient justification of the course adopted by them. If a continuous and deliberate opposition to the execution of the law is to be allowed to prevail, the criticism may be justified. But the police here were brought into a great difficulty, not of their own choosing, by the violent acts of a man who, from his position in the district, should have been on the side of obedience and order. The alternative before Mr. Rattray was either to recede from the duty imposed upon him (which certainly would have involved censure and punishment), or to break down the opposition; and he rightly, in the Lieutenant-Governor's judgment, chose the latter.

As advocates of peace and order we would be the last persons to see any thing done, which would weaken the bonds of either. The greatest merit of the British Government is the security it gives to person and property, and if the guardians of peace and order be not supported in the discharge of their legitimate duties, anarchy and disorder will prevail. But surely our protectors should not play the part of devourers,—*je rukhukh se bokhukh*! Now, what does the Superintendent of Police, whose conduct the Lieutenant-Governor entirely approves, himself say?

Mr. Rattray admits that when he entered the house, the men were not armed. Subsequently he saw men with lathies and spears, which they brandished before him. One man approached him, but he was unarmed. He lost his presence of mind, and fired, and his men followed his example. What we ask, is this—would an experienced Police officer have fired his guns on such an occasion? In times past how often were not affrays committed by lathials, but who ever heard of the Police firing upon them? We have heard of instances in which Police officers, though authorized to have recourse to arms, did not have that recourse. There was a notable instance of this abstinence on the part of the late Babu Gopaladhar Khan. If ordinary illegal assemblies would justify the Police in firing upon men, then the country might as well be placed under martial law. According to Mr. Rattray's own evidence the lathials had simply threatened but had not committed any outrage—it was the poltroonery of the Police which apparently brought about the catastrophe. It is here where the fault of the Police lies, and in respect of which we cannot censure with the Lieutenant-Governor. Nothing could be more provoking than the recent riots in Ireland, and yet in how many cases the Police have been guilty of resort to arms and bloodshed? We are of opinion that if Mr. Rattray had exercised ordinary prudence, caution and judgment, there would not have been such fearful results.

As for the part played by the Magistrate, we repeat as we said before that the Pubna case clearly shows what mischief is likely to arise from the union of Police and judicial powers in the person of the District Magistrate. In this case the Police machinery was moved by the District Magistrate. So that he was practically the prosecutor. And yet he sat as Judge in the trial. Here the prosecutor was the Judge. Mr. Barrow, for aught we know to the contrary, may be a strong-minded and thoroughly conscientious man, but the strong-minded may be unconsciously influenced as a judge when he has to perform the two incompatible functions of prosecutor and judge. We do not blame Mr. Barrow, but we do condemn the system, which placed him in this awkward and anomalous position. It is a vicious system, and ought to be done away with, if the Government cares for the liberty of the subject.

We appreciate the desire of Mr. Thompson to uphold executive authority in the enforcement of law and order. But every officer who is charged with the preservation of peace and order ought to exercise reasonable discretion before he has recourse to the extreme step of shooting down ignorant and infuriated persons as so many cattle. Mr. Metcalfe, the Officiating Commissioner, himself says; "In my opinion, the use of a shot-gun is to be regretted, for the reason that a shot-gun is not a legal weapon of legal defence or for enforcing a legal executive order. If it was necessary for defence muskets should have been fired. We say blank-cartridges should have been fired. The vindication of the Pubna Police by the Lieutenant-Governor, we are constrained to say, is calculated to have a pernicious effect upon the Police generally.

THE SUBORDINATE EXECUTIVE SERVICE.

As we had announced before the Lieutenant-Governor has determined to introduce the competitive system of examination for the admission of candidates into the Subordinate Executive Service of Bengal. We cannot sufficiently commend the spirit in which Mr. Thompson has of his own accord surrendered patronage for public benefit. It is solely a high sense of duty, which has induced him to make this sacrifice, and we cannot feel sufficiently grateful to him for his single-mindedness in the discharge of his exalted office. The *Calcutta Gazette* contains His Honor's Resolution on the subject. The Resolution thus begins: "The Lieutenant-Governor has for some time past been of opinion that the system under which the Subordinate Executive Service in these Provinces is at present recruited is not satisfactory, inasmuch as it affords Government no sufficient means of estimating the qualifications of the candidates for

employment." After reviewing the measures taken by Sir William Grey, Sir George Campbell, and Sir Richard Temple for the introduction of a competitive system for the purpose of recruiting the Subordinate Executive Service the Lieutenant-Governor remarks:

Mr. Rivers Thompson has determined on gradually introducing a system under which appointments to the Subordinate Executive Service as Deputy Magistrates and Deputy Collectors shall again be thrown open to competition. To meet the claims of those who, under the nomination system, have been waiting their turn for appointment, all vacancies during the current year (1883) will be filled by candidates now borne on the Government lists. In January 1884, those on the lists who have not succeeded in getting an appointment will be, together with the men in the first and second grades of Sub-Deputy Collectors allowed to compete for the appointments that will fall vacant in that year. In January 1885, all appointments in the Subordinate Executive Service will be thrown open to the public competition. Two months previous to the examination to be thus held, notice will be given as to the number of vacancies expected during the ensuing year, and these vacancies, as they occur, will be filled up according to the results of the examination. Ordinarily there are six or seven substantive vacancies in the year.

The examinations of January 1885 and subsequent years will be open to all natives of India, including Eurasians, who have passed the Entrance Examination of the Calcutta University, who can produce certificates of health, respectability and good moral character, and who are not more than 25 years of age. Each candidate will pay a fee of Rs. 10 to cover the expenses of examination, and applications to be allowed to appear at it, accompanied by the fee and the necessary certificates, must be sent not later than the 1st December in each year to the Under-Secretary in the Appointment Department, or to such other person as the Lieutenant-Governor may appoint. To those whose applications are rejected the fee will be returned. For the examination to be held next January a fee of Rs. 5 will be charged, and intimation of intention to appear at it must be sent in to the Under-Secretary not later than the 1st of December next. It must be distinctly understood that at this examination only those persons whose names are now entered in the list of registered candidates, or who hold appointments in the first or second grades of Sub-Deputy Collectors, will be allowed to compete. Hence-forward no fresh names will be added to the existing list of candidates. Particulars as to the subjects and standard of examination will be published hereafter.

The above extract gives the substance of the new scheme. It is based on the principle of the competitive system for the examination of candidates for the Indian Civil Service. There will be an annual examination, and the first few successful candidates will get the appointments of each year as vacancies occur. Those who may not be lucky enough to obtain the first year's appointments will be eligible to compete for the second year's appointments. This is fair and reasonable. We, however, think that the entrance certificate qualifying a candidate to appear at the examination is too low a test. With regard to the limit of age we have only one suggestion to make. Judging by the results of the University examinations we must confess that many graduates will be barred by limitation, if the proposed rule of 25 years be insisted upon. At any rate most of the first year's candidates will be disqualified by age for competition for the following year. We would therefore recommend that the age limit be raised from 25 to 28 years. This as we believe is the limit of age for medical students at Netley. Such a rule will be fair to both graduates of the University and to persons already in the service of Government. The loophole kept for appointing without examination persons already in the service of Government is inconsistent with the spirit and scope of the Resolution.

AFFAIRS AT BOMBAY.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

Bombay, February 26th.

Lukewarm as Sir James Fergusson's Government has shown itself to be in the matter of forwarding the scheme of local Self-Government in this Presidency, it is satisfactory to know that since Mr. Peile's accession to the Council, the measure has advanced

several stages. Names of non-official Chairmen to preside over city and town municipalities have been obtained from the district Collectors, and hints have been conveyed to the present Municipal Commissioners to tender resignation of the offices they hold. It is to be hoped, however, that no further delay will take place as regards the publication of the draft Bills. The scheme was expected to work by the commencement of the new financial year. We are now near the end of February, and it is not to be supposed that four weeks would be a sufficient time for the public, and those affected by the measures, to master the details of the Bills so as to be in a position to offer their opinions on them or submit petitions. It is said that the Bills will be submitted to the Secretary of State for approval and will be considered in details at Poona during the approaching rains. I hope this is not true. The Secretary of State's approval can surely be obtained by telegraph. What can be easier than this?

The publication of opinions of high authorities in all parts of India on the Native Magistrate's Jurisdiction Bill suggests an inquiry as to why the opinions of the Judges of the Bombay High Court have not been allowed to see the light. I understand that Sir Charles Sargent, the learned and able Chief Justice of our High Court and other Judges, except one, have pronounced in favor of removing the existing anomaly and supported the proposed amendment of the Act. The public on this side of India are curious to know what arguments have been adduced in support of the measure by the majority of our Judges, while looking at it from the point of view of this Presidency, for though it is true, as a daily paper here observes, that it is not a question which either influences passions or rhetoric in this Presidency, yet I must say that a great deal of heat is now being communicated to the controversy here from your side of the country. I notice that the Bengal Chamber of Commerce has sounded the bell of alarm in no uncertain sound, and has not only led the opposition but has communicated its opposition spirit to Bombay and Madras. The benighted Presidency has taken up the cry in a public meeting of non-official Europeans held on Friday last, at which a Committee was appointed to prepare a memorial to Parliament in communication with planters and other Europeans in the Mofussil. It is to be hoped that the good sense of the non-official European community amongst us, and the infinitely better feeling which prevails in this Presidency between natives and Europeans, will get the better of the passions which are sought to be evoked from outside. As I said in one of my previous letters non-official Europeans on this side of India have no special reasons to be dissatisfied with the proposed amendment of the law which seeks simply to do away with the anomalous position in which native civil servants, possessed of the powers of first class Magistrates, have been put in consequence of a statutory recognition of race distinction. I have carefully watched and considered the arguments urged by the opponents of the measure. They all seem to me to rest on the old and now well-worn position taken up by Sir James Stephen in 1872 that the law of India consists mostly of personal law; that the Hindu has his personal law and the Mahomedan has his personal law. But those who have lived sufficiently in India and are familiar with the peculiar social and religious customs, usages and habits of the different classes which make up the native community in India, are well aware that it is only in matters of social and civil rights that personal and special laws for special classes of people exist. In respect of criminal law the Hindu stands on the same footing as the Mahomedan or the Parsi in the eye of law. An offence is an offence and whether committed by a Hindu, Mussulman, or Parsi, is punishable equally in the eye of law, regardless of the race, color or creed of the offending party. It is only in matters of civil law, in questions affecting inheritance, adoption, and powers over immoveable and moveable property that the law recognises the social customs and usages of the Hindu, the Mahomedan or the Parsi. And this is no new thing that the British Government have done. The Mahomedan conquerors of India respected the ordinances of the Hindu law in all matters affecting the rights of property and the social and religious usages of the people. Hindu jurisprudence dates as far back as the existence of the Hindu nation as a civilized community. The British Government while, respecting the civil portion of the Hindu law, has recognised no distinctions, whatever of race, color or creed in criminal matters. That being the case, the existence of a personal or special law for Hindus and Mahomedans in matters of civil rights is by no means an anomaly of such a character that any Government in its legislative capacity can well afford to ignore and dispense with. This argument of Sir James Stephen, therefore, and of those who have now imported it into the present discussions does not it seems to me to hold water, and may be dismissed as one not deserving of the importance and attention which some people are

disposed to give it. It is, therefore, to be hoped that our local Chamber will not catch the contagion of the hostile spirit of its Bengal counterpart. What strikes me most in connection with the action of the Bengal Chamber is that it should have passed several Resolutions against the proposed measure with closed doors. You are, however, better able to deal with the actions of the Chamber.

The arrangements announced at Saturday's Durbar at Hyderabad (Deccan) by Sir Stuart Bayley consequent on the death of Sir Salar Jung for the conduct of government during minority of H. H. the Nizam, are such as to command the approval of all right thinking persons. A Council of Regency will be formed, with H. H. Nizam as President, and Nawab Busheer-ool-Dowlah, Nawab Shumsool Osmrah, Raja Narendra Prasad, Poishkar, and Mir Laikat Ali Khan Bahadur as Members. Raja Narendra Prasad Poishkar and Mir Laikat Ali will carry on the executive Government of the State, and refer matters of importance to the Council. These arrangements are to last till H. H. the Nizam ascends the *guddi*. I need not allude to the reasons why the appointment of a Council of Regency is the best possible arrangement under the present circumstances. I will merely remark that any arrangements other than those now made would have been simply unsuitable. They would have led to friction and unpleasantness among the different aspirants to power. Meer Laikat Ali will it is expected be formally appointed Dewan in the place of his father as soon as he has proved his fitness for the high office by the knowledge and experience he will gain in his present office of Secretary to the Council.

The movement initiated here by the Bombay Branch of the East India Association to memorialise Her Majesty the Queen Empress of India for the extension of Lord Ripon's tenure of office has been energetically taken up by the people in the Mofussil of this Presidency. Foremost among them is the Poona Sarvajanic Sabha. At the instance of this Sabha a public meeting of the inhabitants of Poona was called yesterday at the Herabacy Town Hall. Among other matters contained in the address unanimously adopted at the meeting the special feature of the address to be found in the truth it enforces of the adoption by the Home Government of a policy of allowing the Governors-General to continue in office until the particular policy they have introduced has been fully carried out. In illustration of this policy, instances were given of Lords Hastings, Bentick and Dalhousie. A similar meeting, I understand, having the same object in view was held at Surat during the last week. These movements throughout the different parts of the Presidency afford perhaps the best indication of the confidence in Lord Ripon's Government, in the policy and measures they have inaugurated, and should be a warning to those public writers in England who try to misrepresent in the Conservative press the state of public feeling in India with regard to Lord Ripon's administrative reforms.

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES.

WE HAVE reasons to believe that there is no foundation for the rumour that the next Budget will shew a deficit.

WE GIVE in a Supplement the first instalment of Dr. Rajendrala Mitra's evidence before the Education Commission. The reader will see it is a masterly exposition of the views of the veteran educationist on various important topics connected with the education question.

AT THE last meeting of the Faculty of Arts, Calcutta University, the regulations for the examination of lady candidates for University degrees were considered. Botany was substituted for Physics.

THE PERSONAL qualities of Mr. Primrose, Private Secretary to His Excellency the Viceroy, have so much endeared him to the Indian community, both European and Native, that the news of his illness has filled them with deep sorrow. But it will afford them relief to know that for the past few days Mr. Primrose has been steadily improving. The temperature is now slightly above the normal. We hope he will be thoroughly restored to health before the exodus to Simla begins.

WE ARE glad to learn that Babu Chundermadhub Ghose has been appointed a member of the Bengal Council. The selection is unexceptionable. Babu Chundermadhub Ghose is a

leading pleader of the Bengal High Court, and possesses great ability and considerable experience. We wish him every success in his new career.

WE HEARTILY welcome back Mr. Nisikant Chattopadhyaya from his pilgrimage to Europe. He arrived at Calcutta on Saturday last. No other Indian student has made his way more successfully into the intellectual arena of Europe and won greater intellectual distinction than this gentleman. We only hope that his career in his own country will be commensurate with his glorious achievements in Europe. But much will depend upon the encouragement, which the Government may be pleased to give him.

ON FRIDAY last was held the annual meeting of the Indian Science Association. The annual report shews steady progress. After the election of the office-bearers for the current year a resolution was passed sanctioning Rs. 20,000 for the construction of the Lecture Hall. We hope no time will be lost in pushing on the building. May we venture to express a hope that when the Viceroy returns from Simla next cold season the Association will be in a position to invite His Excellency to inaugurate the new Hall.

WITH reference to the extract from the *Medini*, we gave from the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* in our issue of the 19th ultimo, respecting the treatment of a Brahmin woman as a witness in the Court of the Sessions Judge of Midnapore, we have received from the Bengal Secretariat the following explanation of the Judge for publication:

22nd February, 1883.

My dear Peacock,—Your note of 21-2 the paragraph to which you refer probably relates to the following circumstances. A young Brahmin lad had been murdered in his verandah. His house is a few paces from that of the two witnesses; the verandah is in sight of their house. They were related to the youth. They are in poor circumstances, and are supposed to be under the influence of a person of considerable influence in the village who was under his trial at the time, charged with making away with traces of the murder, washing the blood from the verandah, &c., and generally suppressing evidence. The woman began to give her evidence with her face completely covered with her cloth, every woman does the same in the witness-box. I asked her, as I always do, to remove the cloth from her face. There were at the time perhaps six or eight persons in the Court besides the assessors and myself. She was assisted in gently removing the cloth from her face by a young Brahmin clerk who happened to be standing by the witness-box. There was no violence offered or intended. There was no suggestion by the vakils on either side that the examination should be more privately held. The deposition continued, and her attention being drawn to a fuller statement which she had made in the committal Magistrate's Court, she sat down in the box, and unassisted, drank water. Her agitation appeared to me to be entirely due to her connection with the circumstances to which she was called to speak. The Editor of the *Medini* is well known here. Only a short while ago I set him at liberty on appeal on a legal point, being convicted of giving false evidence.

He was hanging about the Court at the time the woman was under examination; the opportunity for a paragraph was too good to be lost and one paper after another seems to have copied it, in the usual manner.

Yours sincerely,
(Sd.) W. F. MEER.

It is clear from the above statement that there was exaggeration in the version of the *Medini*. We are satisfied that there was no wantonness on the part of the Judge. But we must say that his practice of requiring zenana ladies, when they appear before him as witnesses, to take off their veil, is not consistent with the native custom nor needed in the interests of justice.

AS WE had anticipated the Lieutenant-Governor has referred the Calcutta Memorial to the City Corporation for opinion. Mr. Macaulay in his reply to Mr. Justice Cunningham, who has headed the memorial, states that the memorial has been forwarded to the Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation in order that the Commissioners may have an opportunity of considering the memorandum and of submitting any reply to it which they may desire to offer. The Chairman has also been called upon to submit a detailed statement of the measures taken in 1882 and contemplated in 1883 for (1) the cleaning and general conservancy of the town, (2) the reclamation of *bustis* and the filling up of tanks. On hearing from the Corporation the Government will address a further communication to the memorialists.

THE LAST *Calcutta Gazette* contains a mass of papers, being the reports of local officers on the subject of local self-government. We have had time only to glance at the papers. We are

glad to observe that the spirit evinced by the local officers as a body is not one of hostility to the enlightened policy of Government. It fully bears out Mr. Macaulay's statement that the local officers are not opposed to the bestowal of powers of local self-government on the people. Of course they differ in details, but they are generally in accord as to the desirableness of giving a trial to the important experiment. The Local Boards Bill has also been published in the same *Gazette*. It is a statement of Mr. Macaulay's ability and industry. The Bill is substantially based on the Government Act of England adapted to local circumstances.

THE LAST MAIL has brought in the article on Mr. Ilbert's Criminal Jurisdiction Bill. The *Thunderer* has been entirely misled by the Calcutta Correspondent. It says:

The old rule, prior to the Criminal Procedure Code of 1872, was that British subjects wherever resident could be tried by jury, in a presidency town and before the High Court. In 1872 this privilege was diminished, but it was not wholly taken away. District Judges and Magistrates of European race were then empowered to pass on British subjects sentences of imprisonment not exceeding one year. Graver cases, requiring heavier punishment, remained as before triable only by the High Courts. This is the rule which Lord Ripon and his advisers are running a tilt at.

It is upon this text the *Times* hangs its whole tirade. The writer heaps most unmerited reproach upon the devoted head of the venerated Viceroy and calls upon England to interfere. We do hope that when the true character of Mr. Ilbert's Bill is laid before the British public, they will prove true to their principles, professions, and traditions, and vindicate Lord Ripon's courageous attempt to vindicate the equality of races in India.

ENGLISH OPINION it seems is offended because Mr. Ilbert's Bill has been suddenly introduced without previous announcement. Otherwise it is not against the sound and righteous principle of the Bill. *Allen's Indian Mail* writes:

The "anomaly" which the Viceroy proposes to do away with is clearly one that cannot be defended on any principle of moral right whatever—as we ourselves have always been and candidly admitted. It does seem a monstrous thing that an English planter in Tirhoot cannot be tried for the murder of a man of such high character and attainments—not less than a high, well-to-do, and influential man of the best of their kind, but a compeer—as many native Judges and Magistrates we could mention. We believe that the result of any retreat of the Government, at the present stage, on the matter, would be most deplorable—more deplorable than the destruction of European enterprise and the banishment of European capital. The ground of "expediency," on which alone it could be defended the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code in regard to native jurisdiction over European British subjects, has, therefore, been cut away by the action of the Government in bringing in the Bill. It must now pass, *coute que coute*.

But the Government never intended to carry the Bill through in hot haste. It was understood from the beginning that the Bill would not be passed till November next.

WE OWE to Messrs. Burn & Co. the first Bengal Railway in Deoghur without State guarantee. They have just taken in hand another project of far more extended usefulness and of a far more remunerative character—we mean the Burdwan and Cutwa line. The line will start from a junction station with the East Indian Railway at Burdwan, and will run in a northerly direction to Cutwa on the existing canal, except where it will be departed from to take easier curves. The prospects of this line are most promising. It will tap a good portion of the rich productive districts of Burdwan and Hooghly. We hope our countrymen will show their appreciation of it by investing their capital in this useful local project.

MR. BRANSON has thought fit to make the following apology for his slanderous and scandalous speech at last Wednesday's Town Hall meeting:

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ENGLISHMAN.

SIR,—Permit me to say a word in your columns on the subject of Mr. J. Croft's letter published in this day's *Englishman* and *Statesman*.

Entirely appreciating the calm and moderate tone of his criticism upon my speech of Wednesday last, I cannot but admit that I spoke under very great excitement.

My own extreme repugnance to the measure, as expressed by the vast meeting I addressed, as manifested by the enthusiasm, not unnaturally acted very strongly upon me, and I am almost entirely unused to a responsive audience.

This must be my excuse for having been led to use language towards my native fellow subjects which I feel to be entirely avoidable and personally offensive, and which I should never have used except under the influence of very violent excitement. I am aware that the great mass of the natives have not been misled by this measure, and do not desire it, and there are many among them for whom I have very great esteem. I regret that I have no part of the ground on which I rest.

and sincerely apologise for the use of it, as well to those to whom it was applied, as to the audience to whom it was addressed.

That I should have been led by my excitement to use such language has pained me myself, and I do not fancy that any one has been more grieved by it than myself.

JAMES H. F. BRANSON.

March 2, 1883.

It may be said that this speech reminds one of the old story—kicking first and begging pardon afterwards. But we hope our countrymen will accept the apology in the spirit in which it has been offered. It is a graceful act, and it does honor to Mr. Branson. We are, however, constrained to tell him that the indignation evoked by his speech among all classes of the native community was of the intensest description, not because they care one whit for what a particular individual may think or speak of them, but because Mr. Branson has always professed to be one of their sincerest and best friends, and because he owed his rise at the bar mainly to their assistance and co-operation. The indignation was so great among the pleaders of the High Court that on the day after the meeting Babu Rashbehary Ghose, a leading Vakil, we are informed, refused to hold brief with him, and that on the next day the Pleaders in a body resolved not to act with him. As Mr. Branson is about to retire he will not of course feel the consequence of this quiet demonstration of the pleaders of the High Court. But the dissatisfaction with Mr. Branson's speech we must say is not confined to the native community. We have not met since Wednesday last a single European gentleman, official or non-official, who does not condemn Mr. Branson's invectives against the natives. That speech is sure to mar the effect of the meeting in England, for in the serene atmosphere of their own sea-girt isle Englishmen will not fail to see how ill-fitted are Anglo-Indians, who cheered Mr. Branson, to represent the Majesty of the British Crown in the far East.

WE ARE glad to observe that His Excellency the Viceroy has been pleased to confer the title of Rai Bahadur upon Babu Shibchunder Nundy, Assistant Superintendent, Telegraph Department. This gentleman was co-worker with Sir W. B. O'Shaughnessy in introducing the telegraph into India. When the telegraph line was first laid between Calcutta and Diamond Harbour in October 1850 he used to work with his own hands, and Lord Dalhousie was so much pleased with him that he bore personal testimony to his worth and services. During the Mutiny when Col. Stewart, the then Director General of Indian telegraphs went to the North-Western Provinces, he was left in charge of the office, and the responsibility of the department in that grave crisis devolved upon him. Soon after he constructed the Dacca line and laid down the cable in the Padma, which was considered a work of great difficulty. He also constructed the Nagpore line during the Mutinies. When telegraphy was in its infancy in India, the knowledge and experience of this native gentleman proved of the highest value. He was the right-hand man of Sir W. B. O'Shaughnessy, Col. Stewart and Col. Robinson. The present Director, Col. Murray, also highly appreciates him. Circumstances compelled him to remain in Calcutta, otherwise he would have risen high in the service, as the Government repeatedly offered to put him in charge of Divisions. The Government has recognized real worth and faithful and devoted service by honoring this deserving public servant.

WE ACKNOWLEDGE with thanks the receipt of a copy of Analytical History of Greece and Rome with chronology of remarkable events, biography of distinguished personages, glossary of important terms and University F. A. papers in Greek and Roman History. This is an excellent manual. It comprises a good deal of valuable matter within a short compass and will we make no doubt prove a useful guide to students, who are preparing for examination in Roman and Grecian History. It does not come exactly under the category of cram.

WE HAVE received too late for notice in this issue the report of a meeting of the Indian Society in London for the establishment of an associated body in England for the agitation of

Indian political questions. We hope to notice it in an early issue.

DR. DE JONGH'S LIGHT-BROWN COD LIVER OIL.—ITS UNEQUALLED EFFICACY IN CONSUMPTION.—Dr. Sinclair Coghill, Physician to the Royal National Hospital for Consumption and Diseases of the Chest, Ventnor writes:—"For many years I have, in private practice, exclusively prescribed the Cod Liver Oil of Dr. de Jongh, from a large and intimate experience of its superiority as a remedial agent in appropriate cases to other Cod Liver Oils ignorantly lauded on account of their comparative tastelessness and lightness of colour. More recently I have had, in the Royal National Hospital for Consumption here, and opportunity of instituting a more extensive and systematic comparison, and I have convinced myself that in Tubercular and the various forms of Strumous Disease, Dr. de Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil possesses greater therapeutic efficacy than any other Cod Liver Oil with which I am acquainted. It was specially noted, in a large number of cases in which the patients protested they had never been able to retain or digest other Cod Liver Oil, that Dr. de Jongh's Oil was not only tolerated, but taken readily, and with marked benefit. Dr. de Jongh's Oil is now the only Cod Liver Oil used in the Royal National Hospital for Consumption and Diseases of the Chest." Dr. de Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil is sold only in capsuled imperial half-pints, pints, and quarts, by all chemists, druggists and store-keepers. Sole Consignees, Ansar, Harford and Co., 77, Strand, London.

INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE CULTIVATION OF SCIENCE.

(210, Bow-Bazar Street.)

(SESSION 1883.)

Lecture by Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar, on Tuesday, the 6th Inst., at 7½ P. M.

Subject: Induction of Static Electricity.

Lecture by the Very Rev. Father Lafont, S. J., C. I. E., on Thursday, the 8th Inst., at 7½ P. M.

Subject: The Consequences of Archimedes' Principle.

Lecture by Babu Tara Prasanna Roy, F.C.S., F.I.C. on Saturday, the 10th Inst., at 3 P. M.

Subject: Compounds of Nitrogen and Oxygen.

COMMERCIAL.

(FROM OUR COMMERCIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

Saturday, 3rd March, 1883.

Since our last report there has hardly been any change of importance in the features of our commercial affairs. The market for piece-goods continued to maintain its previous firm position which brought about a series of transactions in Grey and White Goods to a fair extent without helping prices to advance.

In exports owing to a rise in the rates for tonnage operations have been restricted as shippers waited for an adequate fall for prices of country produce, which have already affected the rates for Wheat, Linseed, Rapeseed and Rice. Jute, however, has upheld its rates, it is likely to continue to maintain its position.

MONEY.

Money as stated before has stiffened to some extent and rates for interest and discount advanced. The Directors of the Bank of Bengal at their last weekly meeting raised 1 per cent. all round making the present summary rate 6 per cent. for loans on Government Securities.

GOVERNMENT SECURITIES.

Have rather been in less request and prices have steadily dropped to 100-10 for 4 per cent.

100-12 for 4½

Nothing done, the idea of a new loan is decidedly to affect the market.

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

There has been a lull in this market and operations were confined to a narrow extent—Jute, Tea, Cotton chiefly.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

MOFUSSEIL SUBSCRIPTIONS.	Rs.	As.	P.
E. Owen, Esq., Bhagulpore.....	5	12	0
District Engineer, Howrah.....	5	0	0
Tirupathi Reading Room.....	1	2	0
P. and W. C. Soor and Co., Meerut.....	13	4	0
Baboo Mohendranath Dhar, Gya.....	10	0	0
" Bejoy Kristo Mookerjee, Ooteparah.....	13	4	0
" Mohim Chunder Bysack, Nattore.....	6	10	0
" Ganes Chunder Mohapatra, Kendrapara.....	15	0	0
" Greesah Chunder Dutt, Debraghar.....	10	0	0
" Mohim Chander Ghose, Raugpore.....	6	10	0
" Okboy Kumar Banerjee, Shillong.....	5	0	0
" Anadi Prosad Misra, Bankipore.....	3	0	0
" Jogendra Nath Mallik, Midsapore.....	6	10	0
" Ramrutton Mazoomdar, Bhagulpore.....	13	4	0
" Poorendro Deb Roy Mohasoy, Sewrapooly.....	13	4	0
" Bhugwan Chunder Bose, on leave, Calcutta.....	13	4	0
" Anand Nath Sen, Dinajpore.....	12	8	0
" Pararam Khound, Debraghar.....	13	4	0
" Gobind Prosad Sookul, Nattore.....	13	4	0
" Kristo Churn Bysack, Mymensing.....	13	4	0
" Mutty Lal Roy, Gourha.....	8	0	0
" Sanketapersad, Bhagulpore.....	12	0	0

Government Notifications

Calcutta Gazette.—February, 28, 1883.

General, 22nd Feb.—Mr. E. N. Baker, Asst. Magte. and Collr. 24-Pergunnahs, is appointed to act, until further orders,

as Under Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal in the Financial Dept. with effect from the date on which he joined his appointment. 23rd Feb.—Mr. H. Beverley, Additional Dist. and Sessions Judge, 24-Pergunnahs and Hooghly, has been granted by Her Majesty's Secy. of State for India an extension of furlough for eight months.

The Lieut. Govr. accepts the resignation tendered by Mr. C. C. Smith of his commission as Captain in the Behar Mounted Volunteer Rifle Corps.

26th Feb.—Baboo Peary Mohun Bose, Temp. Sub-Depy. Coll. Nowada, Gya, is allowed leave for one month.

Baboo Ram Narain Banerjee, Depy. Magte. and Depy. Collr. Bhagulpore, is vested with the powers of a Collr. under Act X of 1870 in that dist.

Baboo Rakhal Das Mookerjee, Depy. Magte. and Depy. Collr. Mymensingh, on leave, is transferred to Nadden, and is appointed to have charge of the Chooadanga sub-division of that dist.

Baboo Mohendro Nath Mookerjee, Off. Depy. Magte. and Depy. Collr. Lohardugga, is allowed leave for two months.

Mr. G. E. Porter, Dist. and Sessions Judge, Gya, is allowed special leave for six months.

Mr. J. Kelleher, Joint-Magte. and Depy. Collr. Mozufferpore, is appointed to act as Dist. and Sessions Judge of Gya, during the absence, on leave, of Mr. G. E. Porter or until further orders.

27th Feb.—Baboo Hurri Mohan Sanyal, Sub-Depy. Collr. Sonthal Pergunnahs, is posted temporarily to Godda, in that Dist. with effect from the date on which he joined at that station.

Moulvi Golam Lillahi, Tempy. Sub-Depy. Coll. Godda, Sonthal Pergunnahs, is posted temporarily to Pakour in that dist. with effect from the date on which he joined at that station.

Baboo Hari Mohun Sanyal, Sub-Depy. Collr. Godda, Sonthal Pergunnahs, is transferred to Doomka in that dist.

Baboo Bunko Behary Buxee, Sub-Depy. Collr. Doomka, Sonthal Pergunnahs, is transferred to Pakour in that dist.

Baboo Gopi Krishna, Tempy. Sub-Depy. Collr. Pakour, Sonthal Pergunnahs, on leave, is transferred to Godda in that dist.

Moulvi Golam Lillahi, Tempy. Sub-Depy. Collr. Pakour, Sonthal Pergunnahs is transferred to the Sudder station of that dist of Purneah.

Advertisements.

Wanted the services of a few experienced Tahsildars and Tahsil-Moharars: the former to furnish Security for Rupees 2000 each, and to draw Rupees 20 per month with monthly increment of Rupee 1 after one year's service, rising to Rupee 22; and the latter to give security for Rupees 500 each, and to get a monthly pay from Rupees 10 to 15. Thorough acquaintance with zamindari management and book-keeping and knowledge of Hindu language (at least a tittle to learn that language) are requisite. Apply by letter with testimonials to the undersigned.

RAKHAL DAS HALDAR.

Manager, Chotanagpore Estate.

Ranchi, Chotanagpore. 26th February, 1883.

Wanted for the Sasseram H. C. E. School in Shahbad a third teacher on Rs. 40 a month for one year. There is every probability of the successful candidate becoming permanent. A graduate will be preferred. The applications will be received up to the 15th March by

SARAT CHANDRA MUKERJI,
Secy. H. C. E. School, Sasseram.

CORPORATION OF CALCUTTA.

Sale of Surplus Stores at the Municipal Depots will commence on the 12th instant. Those at Entally, Newgeepokur, New Market and at Bag Bazar will be successively sold. The details of the Stores, consisting of one H. P. Vertical Engine, Pumps, Cylinders, Boilers, Screwing Machine, Corn Crushers Chaff Cutting Machine, Carts of kinds and sizes Boiler Tubes, WI Axles, Teak wood Scrap, Wrought and Cast Iron Scrap, Pugmills, Wheel-barrows, Stone-ware pipes, and such others, will be seen from the hand-bills which will shortly be out.

RAJCHUNDER GHOSH,
Superintendent of Stores.

ORDERS BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR AND SYNDICATE OF THE CALCUTTA UNIVERSITY.

NOTICE.

It is hereby notified for general information that a convocation of the University of Calcutta for conferring degrees will be held at the Senate House on Saturday the 10th March at 4 P. M.

Graduates of the University in Academic costume are admissible on presenting themselves at the Senate House at 3 P. M.

SENATE HOUSE,

The 1st March 1883.

G. BELLETT,

Registrar.

CORPORATION OF CALCUTTA.

SUPPLY OF CRUSHED FOOD FOR CATTLE.

Tenders for the supply of crushed food for cattle are invited and will be received by the Chairman up to noon of the 10th instant.

Specification and forms of tender to be had on application at the office of the undersigned.

Rupees 500 to be deposited as earnest money with each tender.

The Commissioners do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender.

C. W. HOPE,

Acting Secy. to the Corporation.

WHAT SHALL WE DRINK ?

COOL, *Goedone* EXHILIRATING,
SPARKLING, REFRESHING.

"A delicious non-alcoholic aerated beverage."—R. A. DOUGLAS LITHGOW.

Goedone resembles Champagne in all but the incoxicating properties of the latter."—*Army and Navy Gazette*.

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Goedone Is adapted for all climates, classes and creeds.

PRICE only Rs. 3 per Dozen.

MANUFACTORY—BOMBAY, AND OF ALL AGENTS.

MUNICIPAL SANITARY ENQUIRY.

The Commissioners of the under-mentioned Municipal Wards will sit with Mr. Jones (member Sanitary Committee) on the dates specified from 7-30 to 9-30 A. M. for the purpose of receiving any representations which Rate-payers may desire to submit regarding the Town Conservancy and Municipal improvement.

Ward No. 4 on Friday 9th March.

At the residence of Babu Joygobind Law.

2 Cornwalis Street.

Ward No. 10 on Saturday 10th March.

At the residence of Babu G. C. Chunder.

23 Wellington Street.

CORPORATION OF CALCUTTA.

HAY AND STRAW FOR GOWKHANNAH.

Tenders are hereby invited for the supply of Hay and Straw for one year, from the 1st April next to 31st March 1884.

Deliveries to be made every morning at the Municipal Gowkhanahs in such quantities as may be indicated for by the Superintendent.

The quantities, more or less, that will be required for the year are 31700 maunds of best rice-straw, and 3600 maunds best sweet hay.

Specification with full particulars can be obtained on applying at the office of the undersigned.

Tenders to be addressed under cover to the Chairman marked "Tenders for straw and Hay" and each to be accompanied by Rs 200 as earnest money. Tenders will be received up to noon of 10th Instant and no later date.

The usual contract agreement will be entered into and the Contractor will be required to lodge Rs. 1000 security in Government Promissory note for due fulfilment.

The Commissioners are not bound to accept the lowest or any tender.

C. W. HORS,

Actg. Secretary to the Corporation.

সচিত্র বিজ্ঞানদর্পণ।

মাসিকপত্র ও সমালোচন। বৈশাখমাস হইতে প্রকাশিত-অগ্রিম বার্ষিক মূল্য ২০ টাকা, ডাক মাসুল ১০ আনা। অগ্রিম মূল্য ভিন্ন প্রেরিত হয় না।
এ নং দ্বারকানাথ ঠাকুরের ইন্টি } ত্রীবোগেন্দ্রনাথ সাহু।
কলিকাতা যোড়াসাঁকো } প্রকাশক।

"The Vijyan Durpun or the Scientific Mirror is a welcome addition to our Vernacular Periodical Press. Few numbers are before us which are creditable to the conductors of the journal."

Hindoo Patriot, 10th July 1882.

Notice.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,
IRRIGATION BRANCH.

It is hereby notified that the Eastern Main and Patna Canals in the districts of Patna and Gya will be closed for silt clearance from the 5th April to the 30th June 1883.

C. W. ODLING,
Under-Secretary.

The 27th February 1883.

BURDWAN AND CUTWA BENGAL
PROVINCIAL RAILWAY
COMPANY, LD.

DIRECTORS.

James Murdoch, Esq., Messrs. William Moran & Co.
John Mackinnon, Esq., Messrs. Macneill & Co.
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*Thos. Longmuir, Esq., Delhi and London Bank.
W. C. Banerjee, Esq., Barrister-at-Law.
W. R. Larmine, Esq., Magistrate and Collector of Burdwan (Ex-officio).

*Subject to reference to his Directors.

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HEAD OFFICES :

7, Hastings Street, Calcutta.

Copies of Prospectus can be obtained at any of the Bank or Branches, at Messrs. Burn & Co., L. C., 20, Canning Road, Allahabad, and at the Head Offices of the Company, 7, Hastings Street, Calcutta.

CORPORATION OF CALCUTTA.

Sealed Tenders are invited and will be received by undersigned up to 3 P. M. of the 26th proximo, for the supply of 4 lacs cubic feet of Indigenous Stone, a year, commencing from 1884 to 1886, both years inclusive.

2. The Stone to be from the Rajmahal Hills, broken so as to pass freely in every direction through a ring of two inches in diameter bored down, and to be stacked in the Municipal Depots at Bag Bazar or Nimtollah.

3. The rate to be entered is per hundred cubic feet by measurement. The quality of the Stone must be not inferior to that now being supplied, a sample of which may be seen at the Municipal Depots. Tender for supplying Stone of this quality, from any other locality than Rajmahal, may be considered.

4. Each tender must be accompanied with sample in sealed bags, with earnest money of Rs. 5,000 (five thousand) only. In case of the non-acceptance of the tender, earnest money will be returned.

5. The party whose tender is accepted, will be required to sign a deed of contract duly stamped and registered at his own expense, within one week of the acceptance of the tender. In case of failure the earnest money is to be forfeited without further notice.

6. No further security will be required beyond the earnest money, which will be retained for the due fulfilment of the contract.

7. The Commissioners do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender.

8. Any further information may be had on application.

RAJCHUNDER GHOSE.
Superintendent of Stores.

LIST OF BOOKS FOR SALE

AT THE LIBRARY OF THE
ASIATIC SOCIETY OF BENGAL
No. 57, Park Street, Calcutta,
AND OBTAINABLE FROM
THE SOCIETY'S LONDON AGENTS,
MESSRS. TRUBNER & CO.,
57 and 59, Ludgate Hill, London, E. C.

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Nepalese Buddhist Sanskrit Literature, Rs.
By Dr. R. L. Mitra 5

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A Monthly Journal of Agriculture, Commerce, Art, Science and other useful topics, will be published soon from the Charitable Agricultural Office, Tahirpur. Yearly subscription with postage Rs. 5 only. Cheap edition Rs. 2 only. (A number of this journal has been reserved for gratis distributions to agriculturists and those who cannot afford to pay). For further information see Bengalee Journals or please write to.

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The above can be procured at
THE CALCUTTA MUSICAL ESTABLISHMENT.
LATE BURKINGYOUNG & CO.
13-1, Government Place, East.

Notification.

A central depot for animal vaccination has been opened at premises No. 85, Wellesley Street, under the immediate superintendence of Assistant Surgeon Ram Soonder Ghose, Rai Bahadoor, Deputy Superintendent of Vaccination, where persons may be vaccinated gratis with pure lymph from the calf. Those wishing to take vaccination at their homes will have to pay gharry hire and a small remuneration to the vaccinator.

RAM SOONDER GHOSH, RAI BAHADOOR.
Asst Surgn. and Dy. Supdt. of Vaccination for
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ঘনরাম প্রণীত শ্রীধর্ম মঙ্গল।

ঘনরাম প্রণীত শ্রীধর্ম মঙ্গল প্রথম ও দ্বিতীয় খণ্ড প্রকাশিত হইয়াছে। এই রকম বারখণ্ড প্রকাশিত হইলে গ্রন্থ শেষ হইবে, টাকা আছে, স্তম্ভ স্তম্ভ ছবি আছে, কাগজ ভাল, ছাপা ভাল। প্রায় ১০০০ পৃষ্ঠায় শেষ হইবে।

শ্রীধর্ম মঙ্গল বঙ্গভাষার এক অপূর্ণ মহাকাব্য, উজ্জ্বল-তম রত্ন। প্রায় দুই শত বৎসর পূর্বের এ গ্রন্থ এত দিন কীটদষ্ট পুঁথি আকারে মেঘাচ্ছাদিত স্বর্গের ন্যায় অগো-রবে বিরাজ করিতেছিল, গৌড়ের রাজা ইহার মূল স্বত্র, ময়নাধিপতি লাউসেন ইহার নায়ক, ইহাতে বীররস আছে, করুণ রস আছে, প্রণয় রস আছে, কবিতা সকল সতেজ ও সহজ। ইহা পাঠ করিলে পাঠকগণ বুঝিতে পারিবেন, ইহা বাঙ্গালী, মিল্টন, হোমার, বার্কিলের সমতুল।

এই কয়েক মাস মধ্যে ঘনরামের আশাতিরিক্ত গ্রাহক হইয়াছে। আমরা কখন ভাবি নাই, জনসাধারণ এরূপ আগ্রহসহকারে এ গ্রন্থ পাঠ করিবেন, বাঙ্গালী দেশে প্রাচীন কাব্যগ্রন্থের দুই মাস মধ্যে দুই হাজার গ্রাহক হওয়া সম্ভাব্য কথা নহে, এত অধিক গ্রাহক হইয়াছেন বলিয়াই মূল্য আর ৫ চারি টাকা করিতে হইল না। এক্ষণে সমুদয় গ্রন্থের মূল্য ২২। আড়াই টাকা হিঁর হইয়াছে, অগ্রিম মূল্য ভিন্ন কাহাকেও ঘনরাম দেওয়া যায় না। নমুনা দেখিতে চাহিলে এক খণ্ডের মূল্য ১০ চারি আনা পাঠাইলেই হইবে, গ্রাহকগণ আমার নামে মণি-অর্ডার দ্বারা টাকা পাঠাইবেন।

কলিকাতা, (কলেজ ষ্ট্রীট) শ্রীযোগেন্দ্রচন্দ্র বসু
৪১ নং চাঁপাতলা কাঠ লেন। ঘনরাম প্রকাশক।

Calcutta Port Trust.

DEBENTURE LOAN.

The Calcutta Port Improvement Act, 1870—Act V. (B.C.) of 1870—and the Calcutta Port Improvement Act Amendment Act of 1880—Act IV. (B.C.) of 1880—amended by Act I. (B.C.) of 1881, issue of twenty lakhs of Rupees, 4½ per cent. debentures, having a currency of thirty years.

Tenders are invited for twenty lakhs of Rupees in 4½ per cent. debentures, to be issued under the provisions of Act IV. (B.C.) of 1880 and Act I. (B.C.) of 1881, to provide for the cost of works sanctioned by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, which loan, and the interest thereon, will be a charge on the property of the Commissioners.

The debentures will be for sums of Rs. 100 each or multiples of Rs. 100 as may be desired, made payable to order, and carrying interest at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum, payable half-yearly (on the 1st day of April and 1st day of October) at the office of the Port Commissioners, upon presentation of the debentures. Two per cent. of the amount tendered for to be paid on application, and the balance on the 1st of April 1883, from which date interest will run.

The deposit of two per cent. will be returned if an allotment is not made, and it will be forfeited if an allotment after being made is not fully taken up.

In case a less number of debentures is allotted than is applied for, the excess of deposit will be applied in or towards payment of the balance due upon such number as may be allotted.

Tenders in the annexed form should be filled up and sent to the Secretary to the Port Commissioners before noon of Wednesday, the 14th day of March 1883, accompanied by a receipt from the Bank of Bengal for deposit of two per cent. upon the amount of each debenture applied for. The tenders will be opened in the presence of the Port Commissioners.

The minimum rate at which tenders will be accepted will be recorded under the signature of the Chairman, and before the tenders are opened, but will not be made public unless some tender is rejected only because it is below the recorded minimum.

Forms of tenders can be obtained on application to the Secretary to the Port Commissioners, and the form of debenture can be seen at the office of the Secretary. A separate tender must be made for each rate.

By order of the Commissioners.

(Sd.) G. H. SIMMONS,
Secretary.

Port Commissioners' Office, }
Dated 21st Feby., 1883. }

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Loan of 1883.

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each of the above issue in the terms of the advertisement issued by you dated February 21st, 1883, and I send herewith Bank of Bengal receipt for Rs.....

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Yours faithfully,

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Address.....

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ESTATE KISTOMOHUN MITTER.

Umbica Churn Mitter.

vs.

Khetter Nath Mitter, and others.

Notice is hereby given that on Tuesday the 6th day of March next at 1 O'Clock in the afternoon the Receiver of the High Court will put up at his Office for Lease the under-mentioned Zemindaries, Talooks, lands and premises belonging to the above estate on such terms and conditions as may be ascertained on application to him.

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An eight annas share of Khas Potitlands at Radhacantopore with Khallary and Hokook Ticca Mehals.

A sixteen annas share of nij. Ticca Mehals at Radhacantopore.

Jummaie Ticca Mehals at Mowzah Luckhinarainpore in Pergunnah Shampore with Khallary Mehal.

A fourteen annas share of Turruff Kalikapore in Pergunnah Boridhaty Touzie No. 378 with Hokook Ticca Mehals niez sixteen annas share of Turruff Kalikapore.

Ditto of Purchased Lacraj Mehals.

An eight annas share of Shairath Mehal.

Jummaie Ticca Mohuls.

A sixteen annas share Mowzah Bhuggobanpore Turuff Ramessurpore in Pergunnah Hateaghar.

An eight annas share of Mehal Chuck Turruff Kallynagar in Pergunnah Hateaghar consisting of Chuck Bagmaree and purchased Chuck.

An eight annas share of Turuff Shahazadahpore in Pergunnah Moydha consisting of Chuck Hissa Khago.

Durmourassee Chuck Mowzah Ranaghatta Mehal Khorbill in Pergunnah Hateaghar.

Chuck Gorankatty Mowza Cassynagore Pergunnah Hateaghar.

Three annas and four gundahs share of Chuck Kharee in Mowzah Kharree and Pergunnah Kharree with Mehal Touji Bazampree and Pattala Ticca.

A three annas and four gundahs share of Chuck Nalooah Mehal Khorbill in Mowzah Nalooah Pergunnah Hateaghar.

A five annas and ten gundahs share of Mehal Dowl in Mowzah Kharree Chuck Pergunnah Kharree.

Putnee Mehal Turruff Suthul in Pergunnah Magoorah consisting of Mowzahs Majeerant Bonchbariah and Dhokragatcha.

Mourassee Mehal Kamar Pole, &c, in Pergunnah Mooragatcha with Duptur Sarunjamee and Lackraj land.

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	IN TOWN.	Rs. As.
Per Month	1 2	
" Annum	11 8	
" Single Copy	0 8	

IN MOFUSSIL.

In Advance per Annum	18 4
Arrear Do.	15 8

RATES OF ADVERTISEMENT.

Per Line	0 4
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Printed and published by WOONES CHUNDER NUNDI, at the HINDOO PATRIOT PRESS, No. 108, BARANDESH GHORE'S STREET, CALCUTTA.

EDUCATION COMMISSION.

STATEMENT BY HAI RAJENDRALALA MITRA,
BARADUR, LL.D., C.I.E.*

Question I.—Please state what opportunities you have had of forming an opinion on the subject of education in India and in what province your experience has been gained.

I.—I am a Fellow of the Calcutta University, of twenty years' standing, and President of the Central Text-book Committee. I was Director of the Government Ward's Institution for five and twenty years; Secretary to the Vernacular Literature Society for some years; a Member of the Calcutta School book Society for twenty-seven years; and Joint Secretary and Treasurer to the Industrial Art School for several years. I have studied the problem of Indian Education for nearly forty years. My experience has been derived in the Bengal Presidency.

Question II.—Do you think that in your province the system of primary education has been placed on a sound basis, and is capable of development up to the requirements of the community? Can you suggest any improvements in the system of administration, or in the course of instruction?

II.—Much has been done of late for the extension of primary education in Bengal, but not to the extent which the figures given in the reports of the Education Department would at first sight lead one to suppose. Many schools exist in the country which were not formerly included in the reports, but now are; and these have swelled the figures without proportionately adding to the sum-total of the means of education available to the people. This is fully admitted by the Department; still, the figures serve to some extent to mystify, and not to elucidate. Departmental inspection certainly does some good, and the changes effected in the curriculum of the schools have unquestionably raised the standard of education to an appreciable extent; but I cannot add that they have made it more practically useful. The old schools turned out better accountants, better ready-reckoners, better business men than what the new ones do. And the reason is obvious. The total period of study among the lower orders has not increased much, and the attention of the learners is now devoted to too many subjects to leave any opportunity for excellence in any one of them. Even in the case of arithmetic, attention being exclusively devoted to slate work, the boys do not make ready-reckoners.

I do not think any system of education can be said to be placed on a sound basis which is maintained solely by official pressure. The difference between the present system and what I think would be sound is that which obtains between a hot-house plant and a naturalised plant. To improve the schools, the people should be taken into confidence, and perfect freedom given them to mould the schools in the way they think best. To make the system national, the nation must be made to take it up, or it will never thrive. It may be—say, it is probable—that at the first start the national plan will be wanting in uniformity, strict discipline, and thorough efficiency; but it would take root in the mind of the nation and grow up into a healthy naturalised tree, vigorous and self-reliant, and not a potted plant under a glass case, which requires constant and unremitting care. Both initiation and general control should rest with the people, check and revision being left with Government officers. What has been lately said by the Government of India in regard to self-government is exactly what I would say in regard to education.

If the proposed scheme of self-government be fully carried out, it will afford the most satisfactory organization for the national system I advocate. It is to be a scion from the older growth of Indian communal life, and not by any means an artificial and superimposed hybridisation. The conditions under which it can be formed and maintained are not wanting. The intelligent portion of our community is keenly alive to the advantages of education, and willing and able to work, and no one has yet felt the want of students where useful schools have been established. It would require more time than what I can at present spare to develop a complete system, but I give here the outline of my plan. I would make the Subdivisional or Local Board, which the Government proposes to be the unit of its scheme, to be the working body, having the District Board as the controlling authority on the one side, and the Panchayat as the executive agency on the other.

Of course, for a national system, the Local Board should be elected by the people; but, for practical purposes, it would not make any material difference if it be appointed where election is not feasible;—under any circumstance, however, it must be a Board in which the leading men of the community concerned take the most prominent part, and not a Government officer unconnected with the community. The District Board should be constituted on the lines of the Local Board, but it should represent a higher or more influential grade of society. The Panchayat should be formed of men who are residents of the village or villages for which it is intended. Its members should, for the present, be appointed by the Local Board, and not elected, materials not being available at present for any satisfactory election of village Panchayats. Each village, or a group of villages, having a school should have a Panchayat; and it may be necessary at times (but not often) to have both a Hindu and a Muhammadan Panchayat in the same village, where there are separate schools for the two classes of persons.

Before defining the duties of these three bodies, it is necessary to advert to the different classes of schools which will come under their management. Collegiate institutions are, in my opinion, not likely to be well managed by any Local Board that can be organised in the mofussil at present, and they should therefore be altogether excluded. Local Sub-committees now watch over Zillah schools or those which teach up to the Entrance standard, and these may most fitly be made over to the District Boards. Next come the secondary English schools, and then the Vernacular schools, comprising the middle-class, the higher, and the lower Primary schools. It will be necessary to make differences in the details of the working and control of these according to circumstances. Generally speaking, Zillah schools should be

* The evidence of this witness was received too late to admit of his cross-examination on several statements made by him, which the Bengal Provincial Committee are unable to endorse.

left in charge of District Boards; Middle-class schools, both English and Vernacular, in that of Local Boards; and Primary schools, in that of Panchayats.

Working under the general control and orders of Government, to which they must be subject, the District Board, as regards education should have to manage the affairs of the Zillah schools; to receive funds from Government and local sources for the support of schools; to distribute the same among the Local Boards, fairly and with special reference to their requirements; to lay down general rules for the guidance of Local Boards, and Panchayats; to attend to all complaints; to provide for periodical examinations and inspections; to submit to Government periodical returns and reports; and to discharge all those duties which are now performed by the Divisional Inspectors.

The Sub-divisional Boards should appoint Panchayats; sanction grants in aid of local schools, both Anglo-Vernacular and vernacular; supervise the inspection and examination of schools; hold in trust all property belonging to schools; watch the proceedings of Panchayats; appoint teachers; submit periodical returns to District Boards, and generally carry out their orders.

The duties of Panchayats should be to exert for the establishment of new schools; to select convenient sites to arrange for house accommodation; to watch the action of the teachers; to see that they attend regularly, teach properly, enforce strict discipline, and to prevent favoritism. The schooling-fee should be fixed by them with reference to the means of guardians of boys, and local circumstances and custom. They should receive the monthly grants from local Boards, and see that the teachers are duly and regularly paid. They should also hold in trust, in the name of the Local Board, all school property and effects. Of course, this should not apply to effects owned by private teachers who accept aid from Panchayats. They shall, moreover, submit such periodical reports and returns as may be required by Local Boards. The Panchayats may not be able satisfactorily to discharge all these duties at the first start, and the Local Boards should see that they are not over-burdened.

In settling the details of the duties, every possible care should be taken to prevent supervision and control degenerating into vexatious interference, destructive alike of freedom of action and self-respect.

At the beginning, the allotment of schools to Panchayats will have to be regulated by the present situation of schools; but for the work of extension some general rules should be laid down. As a general rule, I think, effort should be made to provide a school for every village or group of contiguous villages which can secure the attendance of 30 boys, the limit being reduced to 25, or even 15, when the necessary funds are available. This, however, is a rough rule of thumb, which should be subject to frequent variations according to local circumstances and wants. For instance, whenever the people of a village come forward with adequate support for a school for 25 boys, they should be always helped in their laudable endeavours, and not deterred all aid because they can send only 25, and not 30 boys, as the rule contemplates.

It is not necessary here to advert to the curricula of the different classes of the schools named above. As regards Primary schools, to which the question specially refers, the curriculum should be limited to reading, including a simple geographical primer, and a history of Bengal, writing, arithmetic (including a good deal of mental arithmetic, and secondary and tradesmen's accounts), and letter forms. This would take up four years, and, as the period cannot be extended now, nothing more should be attempted. I cannot conceive anything more mischievous than sanitary primers, political catechisms, theistic creeds, and other such nostrums as have been lately recommended for Primary schools. They can do no earthly good, but they will for certain take up the time which could be more profitably devoted to meet the requirements of the people. Boys requiring more than the above modicum of knowledge should be translated to higher schools.

The total number of boys available in a village is generally small, and the aggregate of the fees given, whether in money or kind, is not sufficient to secure the services of able men, and the first requirement for the improvement of village schools is pecuniary aid to teachers. Without it, nothing satisfactory can be done. The aid now given is quite inadequate to secure the services of competent men. Its amount varies from a few annas in payment-by-result schools to five rupees. I have not all the details at command, but I find the total cost of thirty-five thousand schools was Rs. 3,20,000. Deducting from this sum, Rs. 70,000 for prizes, cost of returns, and various other charges, a sum of about Rs. 2,50,000 went to 35,992 teachers, giving an average of Rs. 6-15-1 per annum, or nine annas and three pies per month. This is quite inadequate to secure the services of competent men. In some cases the grant ranges from 3 annas to Rs. 3-8, or in the best instances about one-third less than the salary of a grass-cutter or a groom in Calcutta. Day labourers at railway-stations earn three times that amount. As the schooling-fee is very small, and must continue to be so for some time, and wages are rising everywhere, I think the grant-in-aid should be Rs. 5, rising according to proficiency and success to Rs. 8.

Question III.—In your province, is primary instruction sought for by the people in general, or by particular classes only? Do any classes specially hold aloof from it; and if so, why? Are any classes practically excluded from it; and if so, from what causes? What is the attitude of the influential classes towards the extension of elementary knowledge to every class of society?

III.—I do not believe that primary instruction is sought for by any class of the community solely for the sake of primary instruction as it is now understood. The goal set up by a parent is considerably ahead of the limit of mere primary education. Primary education is, however, looked upon, and very correctly, as the only path by which the goal may be reached, and it is sought by all who wish for the good of their children. The desire is common, and not limited to any particular class or classes. None holds aloof from it deliberately, as noxious or not desirable; but many cannot afford it, either from want of means, or from want of schools within an accessible distance. Many cannot spare their children to go to school, as they require their services for the conduct of their own business. To them, a lad of 8 or 10 years is more profitably employed in tending cattle than in grinding the alphabet.

Mehrs, Chandals, and Bagdis are practically excluded from village schools, and they are nowhere so numerous as to be able to maintain schools for their own communities. Pods are as low in the scale of caste as Bagdis, but they are numerous, and in the southern parts of the 24 Pergunnahs they maintain schools for their own education, and, on the strength of their education, freely associate with the higher castes. I have seen many Pods who were good accountants and fair writers and business-men. My father had a Pod for his Muktear in the Alipor Magistrate's Court, and the late Raja Digamber Mitra had a Pod for his Gomasta in one of his estates. I do not know if they are excluded from mofussil village schools.

Generally speaking, the attitude of the influential classes is certainly not adverse to the extension of elementary education. The great bulk of our private schools owe their existence to them, and those schools are by no means exclusive. It would be no exaggeration to say that at least two-fifths of our new schools owe their origin and existence to the exertions of our young men educated in English. There may be a few zemindars who apprehend that education will unfit their ryots for their ordinary agricultural avocations, and certain it is that a fisherman's son who keeps himself all day in a school-room instead of wallowing in water, does not get the best training for the amphibious character of his family calling; but the time is far distant when education will so spread in the country as to reach the lowest stratum of society, or cause any difference in the relation now subsisting between the different arts and professions of life. The ratio of those who can read and write is at present scarcely 16 to 10⁷, and there is ample room for the schoolmaster to work on without trenching on our fishermen.

Question IV.—To what extent do indigenous schools exist in your province? How far are they a relic of an ancient village system? Can you describe the subjects and character of the instruction given in them, and the system of discipline in vogue? What fees are taken from the scholars? From what classes are the masters of such schools generally selected, and what are their qualifications? Have any arrangements been made for training or providing masters in such schools? Under what circumstances do you consider that indigenous schools can be turned to good account as part of a system of national education, and what is the best method to adopt for this purpose? Are the masters willing to accept State aid and to conform to the rules under which such aid is given? How far has the grant-in-aid system been extended to indigenous schools, and can it be further extended?

IV.—Indigenous schools exist in every part of Bengal; but their total number is not known. Many years ago, Mr. Adams computed a total of 30,000 in ten or twelve districts. The Education Report of 1880-81 sets the total of primary schools noticed by Departmental Officers at 41,699. But it is not pretended that it is exhaustive. In regard to Hooghly, we are told (page 58) "The number of unaided schools of this class in the preceding year was one, with eight students; while in the year under report it was 386, attended by 4,114 pupils, the district having been much more carefully explored." And such having been the case in so important and well-known a district as Hooghly only two years ago, it may safely be inferred that of backward districts we possess no reliable information whatever. I am disposed to estimate the total at 70,000.

The Departmental schools are mostly relics of the old village system; but they have neither the vitality nor the usefulness of their originals. The old village school was a part of the village municipality, and was the object of solicitude to the heads of the community. It had, in many instances, rent-free lands, and was so far self-supporting. The rent-free lands have since been resumed by Government or by the zemindar; the village Panchayats are either non-existent, or powerless for good or evil, having no control over the village school; and that which thrived under the immediate inspection and control of the resident village headmen deeply interested in its welfare, now depends solely on the exertion of the guru, or looks to the Deputy Inspector of Schools, for its existence. The old guru took up his profession with the certainty of dying in harness; the new one takes to teaching as a stop-gap in his career, and is always trying to get out of it, either by promotion, or by resort to a more lucrative profession. The subjects taught were not many—writing and arithmetic completed the whole course; but the writing included letter forms and ordinary business forms, and the arithmetic included a great deal of mental arithmetic and ready-reckoning, and zemindari, mercantile, and trades accounts. The old school was useful, because it supplied just what was wanted; the new one teaches much that is subversive to no immediate useful purpose to the village community. The old school turned out ready writers and sharp accountants; the new one gives a smattering of geography, history, and rule-of-three—none of which the people can appreciate, and none of which has a market value. The fees were small, ranging in towns from 1 to 4 annas a month, and in the villages to half those sums, supplemented and sometimes substituted by rice and other articles. In villages, payments in kind are very common.

Elderly Brahmans and Kayasthas, when not strong enough for active arduous work, took to teaching, and made that their profession for the rest of their lives. Not unfrequently a respectable and well-to-do householder employed a person to teach the children of his house, giving him a small pay and, perhaps, his daily board, or a room in the house. This produced a school, and the boys of the neighbourhood flocked to it.

No training was given to any person to prepare him for the profession. When a sarkar, or Mohurrir, or other lettered person became unfit for active work or was too old for it, he got himself appointed as a teacher, or opened a school on his own account. Now Government has training schools for teachers.

I look upon the indigenous Panchala as the best nucleus for the extension of primary education, and the Government of Bengal has already accepted it. Its plan is to find out, and not to create, schools; but I do not like the turn given to the Government plan, of making it too strictly official; I should like to see the people brought into the place of Government officers. I would, as already stated above, place the management of the village school in the hands of the village headmen; to make them interested in, and responsible for, its welfare; and to frame the curriculum so as to make the most of the little learning which it can impart.

Misappropriation of grants-in-aid and inefficiency should not be visited by resumption of grants, but by change of headmen and other means. As long as there is need for a school, there should be no resumption. Resumptions now reckoned by scores and hundreds in the reports of the Inspectors. My arrangement will, perhaps, not show best on paper, and there will certainly be some want of uniformity; but it will secure permanency and thorough naturalization.

As a general principle, I dislike grants-in-aid from the Education Department for primary schools. It is thoroughly unhealthy. The money should be derived from the fund that may be placed by Government or other people at the disposal of Local Boards, and disbursed by them. In the way I suggest, the grant-in-aid system is susceptible of expansion to any extent to which money can be had, and with the best of results.

Question V.—What opinion does your experience lead you to hold of the extent and value of home instruction? How far is a boy educated at home able to compete on equal terms, at examinations qualifying for the public service, with boys educated at school?

V.—The question of school education *versus* home education has been, I believe, finally settled after a discussion of two hundred years by the ablest educationists in Europe. And what is true in Europe in this respect is equally so in India. From my experience of Government wards for five-and-twenty years, I can most conscientiously and emphatically declare that home education cannot in any way compete with school education. In connexion with Government wards and children in well-to-do families, home education has failed most lamentably, and is never likely to do any good. I readily admit that public schools expose unsophisticated boys to immoral and unhealthy associations; but as rich men are not intended to be preserved in glass-cases all their lifetime, they should be trained when young to resist evil, and not kept in perfect ignorance of the ways of the world until they attain their majority. At school they learn fencing with foils; and if this preliminary training is denied them, as grown up men they have to begin with pointed rapier against well-practised and adroit swordsmen fighting for life. In my experience the result of such encounters has been invariably disastrous to the home-trained man, and I cannot expect any other.

The total of our juvenile population fit for school has been reckoned on the basis of the last census at 51 lakhs. These, at 15 boys per school, require a total of 340,000 schools, of which we have only 41,699, maintained at a cost of Rs. 14,38,000, of which the Government contributes Rs. 3,22,000. These figures show that the apathetic people, so roundly denounced by certain classes of Europeans for their neglect of primary education, contribute Rs. 11,16,000 for primary education, or nearly four times as much as Government does. Accepting, for the sake of convenience, that the quality is to remain the same as at present (a very unsatisfactory one), the quantity of aid required for 51 lakhs of boys would be Government grant Rs. 26,33,204, and Private Rs. 91,26,262.

Question VI.—How far can the Government depend on private effort, aided or unaided, for the supply of elementary instruction in rural districts? Can you enumerate the private agencies which exist for promoting primary instruction?

VI.—There is no prospect whatever of unaided private effort doing much for supplying primary education. Even if the Government would contribute its full share, still the peoples' share cannot be revised, for we would soon come to those strata of the people where money is hard to get. With adequate aid, village headmen, panchayats, and local committees can do a great deal. I feel pretty sure that if Government could double its present grant the people would readily double their contributions. The ratio will be more unsatisfactory as we proceed further. It may be observed, however, that the time when we shall have to provide for all the 51 lakhs is so remote that we need not now speculate about it. For the next fifty years we cannot, I am sure, require provision more than for one half of the number.

Question VII.—How far, in your opinion, can funds assigned for primary education in rural districts be advantageously administered by District Committees or Local Boards? What are the proper limits of the control to be exercised by such bodies?

VII.—District Committees are fully competent to administer funds for the maintenance of elementary schools. The Local Boards proposed by Government would certainly be better able to administer educational funds than local public works or hospital funds; they have not failed in the management of the road cess funds. The control should be the same in either case.

Question VIII.—What classes of schools should, in your opinion, be entrusted to Municipal Committees for support and management? Assuming that the provision of elementary instruction in towns is to be a charge against Municipal funds, what security would you suggest against the possibility of Municipal Committees failing to make sufficient provision?

VIII.—I have no reason to doubt that District and Local Committees may be safely entrusted with the management of all classes of schools—certainly all under the highest or collegiate institutions. At present the District Committees have in their hands the management of Zillah schools, except the power of appointing and removing the higher class teachers; and nothing has ever been said against their fitness. I readily admit that there is a considerable amount of apathy or shyness in the members of Committees; but this arises, not from their incompetency as a body, but from a settled conviction that the official Chairman represents the views of Government, and opposition to him, or open declaration of opinion adverse to what he entertains, is calculated to do private wrong. In a Municipal Committee I had to sit with a man who never opened his mouth except once in course of three years, and on that exceptional occasion he having voted with the opposition, requested immediately after that his vote may be counted with that of the Chairman, for he meant to vote with that gentleman; and this man's name was soon after put in the administration report and in the Government resolution thereon, as a most efficient member of that municipality. There are but too many, I must confess, who would like to, and who do, net like him, and thereby acquire the same credit. It is notorious that several men have suffered for being outspoken in Municipal Committees. I have no personal knowledge of the working of District Education Com-

mittees; but it would be belying human experience to suppose that the men who find it necessary to suppress their individual opinions in Municipal Committees should not feel the same restraint in Education Committees. Create a sense of responsibility by entrusting them with power, and the class of men who are now appointed members of District Committees will be equal to their work.

My scheme does not contemplate the employment of Municipal Committees to educational work, and I do not like it. In the first place, there are not Municipal Committees everywhere; and secondly, where they exist they have not much funds to spare for education. Water-supply is in a defective state in almost every town in Bengal, and, as it is a primary want and very costly, it would not be proper to saddle Municipal Committees with any other work. They are best employed in conservancy and road-making, and education will not assimilate with their functions. A Chairman of a Municipality once told me, "Just sanction Rs. 5,000 and be done with it. Why enquire about details? we can't control them." And he was right; and where such advice is right, there is not much room for healthy supervision.

Question IX.—Have you any suggestions to make on the system in force for providing teachers in primary schools? What is the present social status of village school-masters? Do they exert a beneficial influence among the villagers? Can you suggest measures, other than increase of pay, for improving their position?

IX.—I believe the normal schools now existing suffice for the training of teachers. I have no personal knowledge of the social status of village school-masters. As far as I know, the majority of teachers are either Brahmans or Kayasthas by caste, and, by virtue of their caste and as lettered men, they hold a fair position in society. Their position would be improved when they are better paid, for in these days money is the best test of respectability: a beggar who seeks a pound of rice from his pupil cannot, even with the wisdom of a Socrates, command respect from the community at large. Independence of livelihood is the least that should be secured to the teachers.

Question X.—What subjects of instruction, if introduced into primary schools, would make them more acceptable to the community at large and especially to the agricultural classes? Should any special means be adopted for making the instruction in such subjects efficient?

X.—Anticipated in the reply to questions II. and III.

Question XI.—Is the vernacular recognized and taught in the schools of your province, the dialect of the people? And if not, are the schools on that account less useful and popular?

XI.—A categorical reply to the question as framed can serve only to mislead. The vernacular of a district is not necessarily the vernacular of a province, and no province in India has a single vernacular as the medium of speech in the whole of it. Almost every district has its local patois, and the local dialects, put together and fused and amalgamated, constitute a vernacular of the majority of the people of a province; and if by the "vernacular" in the question be meant the vernacular of the province, as I fancy it is, the language of the elementary school books in Bengal is certainly the language of the province. Strictly speaking, it is the spoken language of 24 Pergunnahs, Nuddea, Hooghly, Bardwan and parts of Murshedabad, but different in pronunciation, vocabulary, idiom, and even in some grammatical forms, from the spoken dialects of Dacca, Upperah, Pabna, Faridpur, Mymensing and Rangpur. But the differences do not in any way militate against their usefulness, or their popularity. I am free to confess that if each district had its school-books in the dialect current in it, much would be attained in facilitating the task of tuition. Language is not the end, but the means; and if the means be ready at hand when wanted for teaching facts, it is a clear gain. It is easier far to teach new ideas and new facts, if the words which convey them be already known to the pupils. But the object of school education is not only to teach new ideas and new facts, but also to teach new words. The stock of words known to a little boy is exceedingly limited; it is even so in an unlettered person, and it cannot suffice for the purposes of higher education; and if new words have to be taught, it matters very little whether they occur in the vocabulary of the boy's mother-tongue or not, and the argument about the known mother-tongue breaks down at the very threshold. At the same time, I am firmly convinced that this mother-tongue doctrine is the most mischievous possible that can be devised by perverse ingenuity in the name of education. Practically, it serves completely to defeat the primary object of education. Vast, doubtless, are the resources of the British Indian Government, but they would be totally inadequate to provide for the creation of a separate literature, a separate set of school books, separate maps, and separate teachers for each district. Were it otherwise, and such provision could be made, we could only look to the realization of a new temple of Babel. Even in the case of provinces, no attempt at disintegration should be thought of, so long as it can possibly be avoided. A universal language may be a Utopian dream, but that is no argument why nations should be split up into innumerable sects by artificial sub-divisions of speech into provincial and district dialects. A score of dialects are now spoken in different parts of Great Britain and Ireland, but no famous doctrine about spoken vernaculars has yet enforced school-books in different vernaculars in Surrey, Kent, Northumberland, Edinburgh, Isle of Sky, Wales, and Cork. The attempt everywhere in Europe is to unite as much as possible, and not to divide; and a contrary course in India can only lead to mischief. A remarkable illustration of this is afforded by the recent history of the Kaachi character in Behar. There are at least four different dialects current among the Hindu natives of Behar—all varieties of the Hindi of the North-West, i.e. of Benares, Allahabad, Cawnpur, Agra, and so on; and three different forms of letters—all more or less barbarous or clumsy degenerations of the Deva Nagari. Hitherto the text-books in the schools of the province were those of Benares, &c., printed in the Nagari character and in the Hindi language. This involved no special expense in the preparation of school-books, and helped to keep the people linguistically united with those with whom they were one in race, religion, and close relationship. Philological pedantry—touching, perhaps, by a ring of the hideous doctrine *divide et impera*—could not, however, tolerate this. The local vernacular argument was brought into full play. "We must," said the advocates, "use the language and character best known to the people; it is cruel to transport proceedings in a foreign language, and a foreign character; the multitude has an indelible right to read all court

proceedings in their own vernacular," etc., etc.; and the Government of Bengal was overcome. Of course, the Government would be the last to tolerate the monstrous doctrine; but as that was not let out, the plausible arguments put forth misled it. It has been induced to lay out large sums of money in new founts of types, new school-books, new law-forms, new maps, and so forth; and the people of Behar are, as far as school education is concerned, now in a fair way to be entirely cut off from their relations in Benares and Oudh. Nor has the mischief stopped there. The Government could not afford to pay for four separate sets of school-books in the four dialects current in the different districts of the province, nor for three founts of types for three separate alphabets, and a compromise was effected by creating out of the materials at hand and some fanciful variations, an eclectic alphabet which is not the exact counterpart of any one of the current characters. Men were promised their own languages and characters for their law business, and the promise has been redeemed by giving them a new character, and a new language is looming in the near future. A more ludicrous and absurd consummation can scarcely be imagined. More, however, remains to be said. The people of the four districts, concerned cannot by themselves keep up the literature of which the Government has sown the seed. For one book they can publish, the N. W. people will publish a hundred; and the interference of Government has served to deprive them, as far as such interference can deprive them, of the literature bequeathed them by their ancestors and of the literature which their kinsmen in the North-west will continue to rear up. I may mention here, by way of illustration, that thirty years ago I prepared a map of India in the Bengali character, and in a few years cleared Rs. 12,000 by the speculation. The same map was rendered into Uriya letters at the cost of Rs. 2,000 paid by Government, and it rotted in the godowns of the Calcutta School-book Society. I prepared a similar map in the Nagari character, at the request of the late Mr. John Colvin, then Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces, and it is, I think, still current. It is the property of Government, and it would have done for Behar, but the Kaachi theory will necessitate a new edition at a heavy cost, and it will not sell enough to pay the initial Government expense. And what is true in this case would be equally so in others. Even in the case of Santhal's and other aboriginal races, I am clearly of opinion that it would be a mercy and far greater blessing to teach them the language and literature of their more civilized neighbours, and thereby to help them on in the race of progress, than to give them half a dozen primers in their own dialects set up in Roman letters, and emphatically to declare "thus far shalt thou go, and no farther." I would look upon that person as my greatest enemy who would thus try to curb my aspirations. It might be said that I create my own giant by limiting my premises to half a dozen primers. The primers may be multiplied manifold; but I believe that practically the multiplication cannot, and will never, take place, and the person who would urge it as an argument is either exceeding simple or not sincere. It is a well-known fact, and Sir Alfred Lyall, the present Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces, has ably shown in one of his essays, that well-to-do members of the aboriginal races are steadily amalgamating with their Hindu neighbours, and we should, by teaching them the Hindu vernacular, facilitate that amalgamation, instead of raising linguistic barriers against it, and thereby shut the door of progress against them.

Question XII.—Is the system of payment by results suitable, in your opinion, for the promotion of education amongst a poor and ignorant people?

XII.—I am of opinion that the system of payment by results is not suitable, for it is incompatible with all ideas of permanency or certainty, and what is most wanted is some income upon which a teacher may calculate as certain, and relying on which, he can work on. I find this opinion opposed to that of the Director of Public Instruction on the subject. In his last report he says (page 48), "After allowing full weight to the representations made by some of the local officers, that parts of Rajshahye, of Eastern Bengal, and of Chota Nagpur are unprepared for any form of the reward system yet tried, it seems nevertheless clear, from the experience of every district which has made the experiment, that the system of payment by results, in one form or another, is the only one by which we can hope to extend mass education." Elsewhere (page 49) quoting, approvingly, some remarks of the Joint Inspector of Orissa, he adds, "It has galvanised the indigenous mechanism of education into new life, by infusing into it a healthy spirit of competition." The facts given in the report do not, however, in any way support the high-flown praise above given. We are told on page 48 that "during the past year, the average payment made to the teacher of an aided primary school did not exceed Rs. 8-8." If so, we are to understand that a payment of ten annas, or a shilling a month, is the only hope of extending mass education. Again, "the best of the gurus, who were then encouraged to improve themselves and their schools by the prospect of receiving rewards of Rs. 60 or Rs. 70 at the yearly examination, now earn hardly half those sums, while the earnings of the poorer classes of teachers are reduced to the merest pittance." This shows that grants-in-aid, like homoeopathic drugs, improve in potency by being subdivided, and that the best of the gurus work all the better for having their rewards reduced by one-half, and that the poorer classes of them delight in getting their aids reduced to the "merest pittance." In Hooghly I find (page 58) "the gurus of 612 patschals carried rewards; the highest reward obtained by a guru being Rs. 15 and the lowest Re 1." In Midnapur a total of Rs. 18,490 was divided by 16,555 gurus and boys, giving an average of a little over one rupee one anna per head per annum, or under two pence per month. If a guru getting one rupee a year for his labor is thereby "galvanised into a healthy spirit of competition," he is singularly excitable in his temperament; and I believe there are few who will dissent from me in the opinion that there are in Bengal very few persons fit to be gurus who would evince the same galvanic tendency. The fact is, the affair is mainly spectacular. The schools existed from before, and the teachers were, and are, remunerated by their pupils; the Education Department intervenes, brings the school's and pupils on its books, holds half-yearly exhibitions, gives many trifling prizes both to teachers and pupils to keep up the *tamasa*, and reports highly satisfactory progress. I have no faith in any real good being done by such make-believes. If any material extension of mass education be really the object, the aid should be certain and substantial.

(To be Continued.)

Printed at the Hindoo Patriot Press.